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A Taliban soldier shows a rocket grenade with Iranian markings at Kabul Airport yesterday, at a display of captured weaponry. Taliban leaders have taken Saudi terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden under their protection. (AP)

New threats issued on US, Israeli targets

By DOUGLAS DAVIS, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, and news agencies

Radical Islamic groups suspected of bombing the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania yesterday warned civilians to stay away from Israeli and US facilities because they are targets for attack.

The threats were delivered in a series of statements to the London-based, Arabic-language newspapers *Al-Hayat* and *Al-Quds al-Arabi*.

The purported sources of the statements appear to confirm that Saudi multi-millionaire Osama bin Laden is implicated in the wave of terrorism.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai denied reports that the US had been warned of a planned attack on the Israeli Embassy in Nairobi.

"To put it lightly, some of the things are not accurate. We treat warnings as we should," Mordechai said after meeting with the visiting Norwegian defense minister in Tel Aviv.

"Dangers exist everywhere in the

world. Security arrangements and defensive measures are as vital today as they are throughout the year, certainly after recent events. I presume we are taking the needed steps," Mordechai added.

He reacting to a report in the Kenyan newspaper *The Daily Nation* that a Palestinian believed to be behind the attack on the US embassy was captured in Pakistan on the day of the bombing.

The man was identified as Mohammed Sadiq Odeh and was returned to Nairobi on August 14 for questioning. He told investigators that his operator was another Palestinian, identified as Hosni Abu Numera, the paper said.

Odeh told questioners, the paper said, that they had originally planned to blow up the Israeli Embassy in Nairobi.

Acting on information provided by Odeh, FBI agents and Kenyan detectives raided a hotel room in Nairobi where the bombs were believed to have been made, the newspaper said.

Senior Kenyan military officials have said that Israeli agents were in Nairobi helping to investigate the bombing.

Odeh also reportedly told interrogators that he was in the service of bin Laden, now based in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's Taliban leaders declared yesterday they would not hand over bin Laden, even if there were proof he was behind the bombings.

Al-Hayat reported that a group calling itself the Islamic International Front for Fighting Jews and Crusaders has issued new threats against the US. It said the group had sent a statement to its Cairo office saying that the operations carried out recently against the US would continue until "American forces withdraw from the land of Moslems."

Al-Hayat said it had received the statement together with three from the so-called Islamic Army for the Liberation of the Holy Places, which claimed responsibility for the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The Islamic International Front statement referred to the Islamic Army for the Liberation of the Holy Places without specifying that the two groups are linked.

Al-Hayat said the Islamic International Front for Fighting Jews and Crusaders issued its first statement in February in the form of a *fatwa*, or religious edict, from several radical Islamist leaders, including bin Laden.

Other signatories to the statement were Ayman Zawahiri, leader of Egypt's Jihad group; Rifai Taha, head of Egypt's Gamaa al-Islamiya (Islamic Group); Mir Hamza, secretary-general of Pakistan's Ulema Society; Fadl Khalil, chief of Harakat-ul-Ansar in Pakistan; and Abdel Salam Mohammed, who heads the Jihad Movement in Bangladesh.

Taha denied last month that he was part of the front or of any group targeting American interests.

In another development, a Pakistani newspaper reported that Odeh gave a detailed account of worldwide anti-American operations by a secretive terrorist group based in Afghanistan.

A border official in Pakistan said a Saudi and a Sudanese were detained at the Afghan border. He said they were being questioned about the bombings.

IDF soldier killed, 4 hurt in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

Sgt. Ori Samuelov, 21, of Mevasseret Zion, was killed and four other soldiers were wounded yesterday morning in a Hizbullah ambush in the northeastern sector of the security zone.

Samuelov, who served in a combat intelligence unit, is to be buried today at Mount Herzl Military Cemetery at 4 p.m.

The four wounded soldiers were evacuated by an IAF helicopter under Hizbullah fire and brought to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai, deputy hospital director, said two of the wounded were in satisfactory condition and two were in good condition.

"They are all suffering from shrapnel wounds, mainly to their lower limbs, and they underwent surgery shortly after being admitted," he said.

President Ezer Weizman visited the wounded in the afternoon.

The incident occurred around 8:30 a.m. when a combined paratroop/combat intelligence squad was moving in the area. Initial inquiries by the Northern Command found that a large explosive device, probably consisting of two Claymore anti-personnel mines, was detonated.

A short while later, Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with machine guns and recoilless rifles at South Lebanese Army positions in the area. There were no casualties.

IDF and SLA gunners returned fire and IAF warplanes also struck at Hizbullah targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region, north of the zone. The IAF staged a second strike in the evening at a terrorist target in the Nuemeh area, south of Beirut. The IDF Spokesman said regarding both strikes that the pilots returned accurate hits and all planes returned safely.

Reports from Lebanon said two houses and a car were damaged by shelling in Jarjua and Hadassa villages, north of the zone, and that a large fire broke in the area of Jarjua.

Heavy exchanges were later reported in the western sector of

the security zone. There were no reports of any IDF or SLA casualties in the later fighting.

The paratroopers involved in yesterday's incident were from the same brigade as the soldiers who were criticized for not preventing an Hizbullah gunman from penetrating the Soujoud outpost on August 9 and allowing him to escape alive.

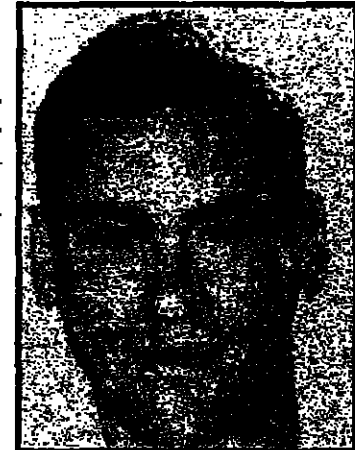
OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi stressed that the whole evacuation was carried out well and properly.

Hizbullah, in a statement issued for the operation, saying its fighters had detonated two roadside bombs alongside an Israeli patrol. The statement said the Hizbullah gunmen had then attacked the patrol with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, and had also fired on the relief force.

Ashkenazi said there was no close-range fire at the soldiers and that they had the impression that the explosive device was detonated from long range.

"We don't have any information that the terrorists knew of the unit's operations — although the fact remains that there was an explosive device at the position," he said.

"The army knows the area and operates there, and the unit itself is acquainted with the spot and had been there several days before," he added. "During the inquiry we will examine how the explosive device came to be in the area and the spot itself."



Sgt. Ori Samuelov

The death of Samuelov brought to 10 the number of IDF soldiers killed in fighting in south Lebanon since the beginning of the year. More than 70 have been wounded.

Ashkenazi was asked about the public debate in Israel and those who are calling for unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. He stressed that the debate is legitimate, but that the army is not a party to it.

"We carry out the missions that are given to us. In my opinion, the soldiers understand this. There is no confusion among the soldiers or among us," he said. "From the professional point of view, when the army is requested to give its opinion, it does so in the appropriate places."

The incident occurred amid discussions in Northern Command over IDF activities deep in the security zone and especially in the northeastern sector, where Hizbullah has been very active.

According to senior sources, IDF activities there to help support and strengthen the SLA will increase.

Routine is a killer in the zone

ANALYSIS

By DAVID RUDGE

Sgt. Ori Samuelov's death yesterday brought to 10 the number of IDF soldiers killed in fighting in south Lebanon this year.

Half them were killed by explosive devices, like the mine that killed Samuelov.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi said that bombs and mines remain one of the biggest threats facing troops in the security zone.

"It is a danger that we are acquainted with on a daily basis. I have no doubt that the terrorists will continue to operate in this manner in light of their partial successes," Ashkenazi told reporters last night.

"In most of the cases, we spot the devices and, in some cases, we manage to deal with them. Only in

a small number of cases they, unfortunately, manage to hit us.

"The threat itself is not new. We can't promise that we will spot every device, but we can promise that we will attempt through every means to try to spot them before they are detonated."

Ashkenazi said the IDF had managed to handle Hizbullah's long-range fire on IDF and SLA outposts by improving and strengthening defenses.

There is, however, another danger which the army seems to keep overlooking — its routine and the

use of fixed observation positions and ambush sites.

Routine is a killer in any army and even more so in the type of guerrilla warfare being fought in Lebanon, against an enemy that is probably better acquainted with the terrain than IDF troops and has the added advantage of assistance from local residents.

The fact that the soldiers involved in yesterday's incident had been in the same area previously may have enabled Hizbullah gunmen or their local helpers to observe their movements and plant the explosive devices accordingly.

The inquiry into the incident will have to address whether routine is proving to be as deadly as the explosive devices themselves.

Treasury proposes cut in defense budget

By DAVID HARRIS

Despite Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's promises that the military will receive more money next year, the Treasury's top staff are proposing a cut of NIS 300 million-NIS 450m. in the Defense Ministry budget, a Finance Ministry official confirmed last night.

The Treasury's stance has become apparent while Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman vacations in Caesarea.

Neeman last week backed Netanyahu on the defense issue, having originally rejected Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's request for a NIS 2 billion budget increase.

On July 22, Neeman told a meeting of the security cabinet that rather than increase military spending, Mordechai should look to economize. Each 1% saving is worth NIS 350m., according to Treasury data.

However, on August 12, immediately after the cabinet approved the overall state budget for next year, Netanyahu declared that "there must be a solution for the strategic [defense] problems of recent years.

In the last 10 years no government has increased investments [in the military]. This has to change."

Neanyahu promised an increase in defense spending, but refused to say in what areas or how much.

The following day, Netanyahu, Neeman, and Mordechai all issued statements denying a report in *Ha'aretz*, which suggested the establishment would receive an additional NIS 5b. over the next five years. But Netanyahu added that the additional spending package is for the IDF's specific strategic needs "in the light of threats to the State of Israel."

On the same day, state budget director David Milgrom went on the record as saying:

"There will be additional spending, but there is also a need for the Defense Ministry to save money, implement efficiency measures, and reduce expenditure. We will present this as part of the debate on the order of priorities in the state budget at the end of the month."

The NIS 173.5b. spending package for all the ministries includes a NIS 2.2b. cut on this year's expenditure program. This cut is necessary for the government to meet its budget deficit target of 2% of gross domestic product next year. This target means the budget deficit must be no greater than NIS 7.8b.

To achieve this, the Treasury is

looking to cut all non-defense budgets by some 0.75%-1.5%.

"It has still to be decided whether this will be an even percentage cut in all the ministries," said a Treasury official.

The Treasury's final budget proposals will only be decided in the 24 hours before the cabinet's next discussion of the subject on September 6. Voting is scheduled two days later.

Originally these meetings were set for August 30 and 31, but Mordechai is due to be overseas at the end of the month.

Arieh O'Sullivan adds:

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu said he is not aware of the move to cut the defense budget and said it was contrary to decisions already made.

"The Defense Ministry has presented a detailed request for an addition to the proposed defense budget," Benayahu said. "The increase is supported by the work of three external committees, which examined the figures, and all the relevant committees in the Knesset. The prime minister has announced that a strategic decision has been made to increase the defense budget."

The defense establishment says that the gap between defense spending and real defense requirements is growing by about NIS 4.5b. a year.

Jordanian cabinet resigns

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan's cabinet resigned yesterday amid a growing scandal over polluted drinking water in one of Amman's wealthy suburbs and King Hussein immediately appointed a close confidant to form a new government.

Hussein, from his hospital bed in the US, appointed Faysal Tarawneh to form the new administration.

The move is expected to have no major impact on Jordan's foreign policy, which is usually handled by Hussein.

The change is widely seen as related to popular discontent over the economic policies of Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali's 24-member cabinet, which also has been accused of negligence in providing polluted drinking water to Amman.

The state-run Petra news agency said Hussein accepted Majali's resignation late last night and Tarawneh began forming his cabinet. Palace officials said they expect the new government to be announced within days. Majali's cabinet was formed in March 1997.

PM won't attend Oslo commemoration

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will not attend a ceremony in Norway next week marking the fifth anniversary of the Oslo Accords.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Knut Vollebaek is reported to have personally asked Netanyahu to attend, but he is sending his political adviser, Uzi Arad, instead.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, former premier Shimon Peres, and US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross will take part in the ceremony.

Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan said that the prime minister "doesn't have time because of things he has to take care of here... There are more important things that are pertinent to what is happening in the present that are keeping him here."

The Prime Minister's Office also issued a statement saying that Netanyahu "prefers to remain in the country in an effort to advance the peace process, subject to the Palestinians' fulfilling their commitments, and not deal in ceremonialism and nostalgia."

Spokesman Aviv Bushinsky added that Netanyahu had canceled a planned visit to Australia scheduled for this period to concentrate on the diplomatic

process.

"But as long as there is no progress, there is no place for celebrations," he said.

Vollebaek appealed to Netanyahu yesterday to attend the ceremony, Israel Radio reported.

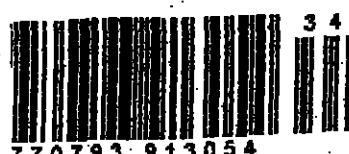
A Norwegian official here said Netanyahu had spoken with Vollebaek by phone earlier this week. *Ha'aretz* said on Tuesday that Vollebaek urged Netanyahu to reconsider his refusal to attend.

But Netanyahu reportedly said he saw no point in attending unless it could be guaranteed that during his visit to Oslo there would be talks which would lead to progress and ensure the Palestinians abide by their commitments.

Vollebaek will host a dinner on Sunday in a building adjacent to King Harald's palace, where the peace accords were secretly initiated in a late night ceremony in 1993.

"With the crisis that the peace process [is in], we want to lay the groundwork so that the partners can have informal contacts," Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ingvald Havnen said.

Former Israeli negotiator Uri Savir and Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei will also attend the commemoration.



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NEWS

in brief

Car breaks through barrier near PM's hotel

A car yesterday crashed through a police barrier outside the Tiberias hotel where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is vacationing with his family, police said.

Three policemen were lightly injured, said police spokesman Boaz Goldberg. The car carrying three people got away and was chased by police, Goldberg said, adding that the driver's motive was not known.

The car, which apparently was stolen, was later found abandoned in Tiberias.

"We cannot ignore the fact that the prime minister was in town, but all the findings we have come up with indicate that this was a criminal incident. The driver apparently had reason to flee the police and the only way he could be was by trying to push his car through," Cmdr. Dov Shechter said.

The police roadblock was set to screen access to the hotel where Netanyahu has been staying with his wife and their children.

AP and Itim

2 more Palestinians escape from Jericho jail

Two Palestinians, including a man wanted by Israel for killing a taxi driver, escaped from jail in Jericho yesterday, a Palestinian security source said. The two escaped four days after Imad Awadallah, a top Hamas militant, broke out of the same prison.

Iyad Ibrahim Awajneh, 18, also known as Abu Shabab, was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 1997 for killing taxi driver Shmuel Ben-Baruch, whose battered body was found in a well in Jericho.

Two other Palestinians were given life sentences for the murder, which security officials said had not been politically motivated but stemmed from an attempt to steal Ben-Baruch's car and money.

Reuters

Palestinian Police arrests Islamic Jihad leader

The Palestinian Police has arrested a leader of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza, relatives and group members said yesterday. They said police had given no reason for the Tuesday arrest of Abdallah Shami, but linked it to a newspaper article he had written criticizing Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for his recent cabinet reshuffle.

Reuters

Police nab Palestinian who once placed bomb

Modi'in police yesterday arrested — by chance — a resident of the territories who was once convicted of planting an explosive device.

The man was arrested together with his employer, who runs a watermelon stand at the entrance to Shilat, in the Modi'in area.

Police began shutting down the stand, which was operating illegally, and its owner, a 24-year-old from Shilat, attacked the officers. Police arrested the Shilat resident and the Palestinian.

During investigation it emerged that the worker, who was in Israel illegally, had been sentenced to three years in prison for planting an explosive device.

A judge yesterday remanded them for two days. Police say the two will be brought to trial rapidly.

Itim

NIS 13m. allocated to repair Ramat Hovav

The Treasury yesterday authorized a budget of NIS 13 million to begin immediate repair work at the Ramat Hovav toxic waste site which suffered a fire early this month.

At a meeting between Treasury and Environment Ministry officials, it was also decided that a team from the two ministries will decide on future work at the site costing \$40 million — \$31m. for general improvements and \$9m. to burn the organic waste that was placed at the site up to 1990.

Itim

At the Jubilee Exhibition, look, but don't touch

Visits to the Jubilee Exhibition in Tel Aviv are way up, but thefts from the exhibits are rising, too.

This week, after admission was made free, more than 160,000 people have visited the fair, compared with 80,000 during its first two weeks, according to exhibition spokeswoman Shuli Lessing.

Night vision binoculars that were stolen Tuesday from one of the IDF stands were found yesterday beyond the fence of the fairgrounds. Pumpkins, tomatoes and flowers have been stolen from the Agriculture Ministry booth.

Lessing yesterday called on the public to keep their hands off the displays.

Itim

IDF readies legal opinion on commando fiasco

IDF Judge Advocate-General Brig.-Gen. Uri Shoham has finished wording his legal opinion regarding the naval raid fiasco of September 1997. Eleven commandos and an IDF doctor in the rescue force were killed during the failed operation at Ansariya beach, Lebanon.

Shoham submitted his opinion to Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz.

The opinion concerns the findings of the commission headed by Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir, which investigated the fiasco. The commission did not reach a clear conclusion on whether the casualties resulted from an ambush or explosives placed that day.

Some families of the deceased have begun exploring legal steps to gain the release of classified documents. They say that it was known in the navy on the day of the raid that terrorists were aware of the force's activity and liable to set an ambush.

Itim

Amnesty fears Israeli 'torture' of Lebanese

Amnesty International voiced concern yesterday that a Lebanese national who is being held by the South Lebanon Army or Israeli security forces "could be subjected to torture and ill-treatment."

The Lebanese, a member of the military wing of the Lebanese National Resistance Front, was captured on August 16 during fighting against the SLA in the security zone. The IDF Spokesman's office has confirmed to Amnesty that an LNRF member is being questioned by "security forces."

Jerusalem Post Staff

Settlements near Lod without water

Several settlements in the Lod area were without drinking water last night because of a Mekorot pipe malfunction.

Mazliach, Beit Uziel, Kfar Shmuel, Bin Nun, Yad Rambam, and Mishmar Ayalon were among those affected, Israel Radio reported. Water has also reportedly been turned off at settlements near Rosh Ha'ayin and Tekuma in the Negev.

In Tel Aviv, a spill from a main sewage line has polluted the Sheraton and Tel Baruch beaches, the radio added.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Our dearly adored and beloved MARCIA OSTROFF has gone to her eternal rest

Deeply mourned by Maurice Lesley, Doron, Tanya and Jonathan Wessels, Shelley Ostroff and Dan and Efrat Ostroff

Funeral: Today at 3 p.m. at Ra'anana's new cemetery
Prayers: 7 p.m. at Rehov Rambam 34/1, Ra'anana.

Abdel-Shafi assails Arafat's 1999 Palestinian state plan

Yasser Arafat's plan to declare a Palestinian state next May in the absence of any progress in talks with Israel came under a stinging assault yesterday from one of the most respected figures in Palestinian politics.

Haider Abdel-Shafi, a former chief negotiator and critic of the Middle East peace process, said Arafat's plan defied logic, and that instead, the Palestinian Authority chairman should suspend peace talks, which he said Israel had used as a cover to cement its grip on occupied land.

Arafat has repeatedly vowed to declare a Palestinian state unless a final peace settlement is reached with Israel by May 4, 1999 — the deadline for a deal under the Oslo interim accords.

"To declare a state without any jurisdiction over territory, without any sovereignty, with all the restrictions that we know that Israel imposes with regard to movement... what is the logic of declaring a state?" said Abdel-Shafi, 79.

"First of all I don't know why he needs to declare what he intends to declare. Why doesn't he keep it to himself until the time comes? Is he warning Israel to take care?" he asked.

"It would be more prudent to simply suspend negotiations and tell the world that 'Sorry we can't proceed because Israel is violating the terms of reference,'" Abdel-Shafi said.

Arafat has not so far spelled out whether he would declare a state in all of the West Bank and Gaza, including on land still controlled by Israel, or only on those parts that have come under Palestinian self-rule since 1994.

Abdel-Shafi led the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid Middle East peace conference in 1991 but parted ways with Arafat over the omission from the Oslo Accords of any guarantee of limits on the spread of the settlements.

"In political [terms] this is a sell-out," he said. "I've not seen Arafat for a long time because I despaired that he would do anything."

Abdel-Shafi resigned from the Palestinian Legislative Council last year over alleged corruption and misrule by the PA, and what he said was the council's failure to tackle it.

Hugely popular among Palestinians, the former physician commands wide respect as an "elder statesman" and won more votes than any other candidate in the 1996 legislative council elections.

(Reuters)



Just a drill

Three soldiers of the Home Front Command's nuclear, chemical and biological warfare unit neutralize a contaminated 'war-head' during a drill in Jerusalem yesterday. The simulation practiced dealing with a hypothetical Scud missile striking the neighborhood of Pisgat Ze'ev.

(Text: Arieh O'Sullivan; photo: Brian Headler)

Shaath: Sharon claims on redeployment a ruse

By MOHAMMED NAJIB and news agencies

Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said yesterday that National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's claim that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed in principle to hand over 14 percent of the West Bank is a ruse aimed at deflecting US pressure.

Shaath said that Israel has indeed offered to withdraw from 13%, but on condition that 3% of that area be declared a nature reserve in which the Palestinians would have virtually no say over land use.

"So what Mr. Sharon is saying is nothing but an act of deception," Shaath said, noting that the Palestinians already rejected the idea when it was first raised last month.

A 1% pullback in a later stage also falls far short of minimal Palestinian demands, Shaath said.

Sharon charged Tuesday that the Palestinians had raised new difficulties — such as claims that Israel was not allocating enough water to the West Bank — to invite US pressure and squeeze

more concessions from Israel.

Shaath countered that Sharon was trying to shift blame from Israel to the Palestinians for the prolonged deadlock in the negotiations.

The Israeli offer, as portrayed by Sharon, would leave Israel still in control of 60% of the West Bank, Shaath said.

"He [Sharon] knows we will reject this and hopes that this would get the blame off Israel and on us," he said.

Meanwhile, US President Bill Clinton's admission that he had an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky continued to generate Palestinian concern will be unable to break the deadlock in the Mideast peace talks.

Clinton's revelations mean that "Neither he nor his administration can influence the Israelis," Palestinian legislator Ziad Abu Amr said yesterday on the Voice of Palestine radio station.

"This means a weakening of the already almost-absent American role, and an increase in Israeli intransigence. We should not expect any active American role in the peace process."

The Lewinsky scandal has seemed intertwined with Middle East peacemaking from the start.

It was at Yasser Arafat's Oval Office news conference with Clinton on January 22 that the US president first fielded questions about his relationship with Lewinsky.

Palestinians had hoped Clinton would use the opportunity to castigate Israel for failing to agree to the 13% pullback from the West Bank.

Instead, with Arafat watching bemusedly from his side, reporters peppered Clinton with questions about whether he had had sex with Lewinsky.

"Since this story surfaced, the American administration has been paralyzed, unable to react to Israeli intransigence," the *Al Quds* newspaper lamented yesterday.

The paper's editorial cartoon showed a grinning Netanyahu thinking "Inappropriate behavior!" as Clinton tries to put pressure on him.

Arafat, asked if Clinton's admission would impede American efforts to advance the peace process, said only: "We hope not."

Panel okays Golan construction

By LIAT COLLINS

The Ministerial Committee on the Development of the Galilee and Negev, headed by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, yesterday approved construction in four settlements in the southern Golan Heights.

The approved projects are for the construction of 2,500 vacation units and 2,300 homes in Ramot, Ma'aleh Gamla, Kanaf, and Had Ness.

Sharon's spokesman Ra'anah Gissin said the approval of the construction was important for strengthening and developing the Golan settlements and providing

an expected 5,000 new jobs.

He said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had pushed for the plan, however "for various reasons" he had asked that it not be raised at a previous committee meeting. The main consideration seems to have been the timing which coincided with a visit to France by Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Gissin also noted that the communities are located on the slopes leading to Lake Kinneret, "in places even Yitzhak Rabin had said are essential."

He said the two major factors behind the decision to concentrate in this area are its vital

importance to protect water sources and its potential for development.

The committee also agreed to the construction of five communal settlements and an environmental studies college in the Negev.

There will also be a campaign for to market some 600 lots in the build-your-own-home project in the Negev.

Gissin said these projects are part of the government's policy of spreading the population throughout the country and developing outlying areas.

He said environmental considerations would be taken into account in all the projects.

Volunteer hostage relates Lima siege drama

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Under the continuing threat of world terrorism, the possibility that one might become a political hostage appears to be an ever-increasing danger. But few of us would choose to become a hostage, as did father Juan Julio Wicht, who was held for 126 days in the residence of the Japanese ambassador in Lima, Peru.

Wicht, who recently visited Israel as the guest of B'nai B'rith, was at a reception at the Japanese ambassador's home, together with high government officials, army officers, diplomats, and business leaders on December 17, 1996, when it was stormed by Tupac Amaru terrorists. The Israeli ambassador had left the reception only minutes before the attack took place.

"It was sudden, terrible, and very

serious. The security forces were taken by surprise and it was a good thing: if they had shot back, many people would have been killed," said Wicht, a short, stocky, and forceful figure, who spoke of the dramatic events almost as if they were everyday occurrences.

The terrorists immediately released all the women and the servants. On the fifth day, they read out a list of some 200 to be released of the 400 still being kept captive. Wicht's name was almost at the end of the list.

"I said that as long as a single captive was being held, I wanted to stay. That took [the leader of the terrorists] by surprise. Then he said, 'If you want to stay, stay.'"

Wicht stayed because he is a priest, but he had attended the reception in his capacity as a professor of economics, who specialized in the economic relations

between South America and Southeast Asia. As an economist and as a priest, he said, he had some degree of sympathy with the demands of the terrorists, who had demanded a total change in his country's economic policy.

Wicht explained that the government of President Alberto Fujimori has brought some order to the economy, brought down the hyper-inflation and balanced the budget, but it has not helped all Peruvians.

When the end came, and the Peruvian troops stormed the complex, he said, it was very well prepared and professional. One of the 72 remaining hostages was killed and two of the officers, including the one who commanded the liberation. Of the terrorists, 14 died fighting, Wicht noted.

"I am grateful, but I regret that it was necessary," he said.

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Samyon Asinovsky, one of two Rosh Ha'ayin policemen suspected of theft, awaits a remand hearing outside Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday. (Brian Heidler)

Remand extended for two policemen suspected of theft

By AMY KLEIN and news agencies

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday extended the remand of two Rosh Ha'ayin police officers suspected of breaking into cars and stealing from them, and also suspected of a breach of trust and obstructing justice.

The court yesterday remanded shift supervisor Alon Levi for five days and Samyon Asinovsky for two days.

The Justice Ministry's police investigation division found that

when the two realized they were under investigation, they met and decided not to confess. They also allegedly threatened to beat another policeman if he cooperated with investigators.

Investigators suspect that the two coordinated their testimony during that meeting.

Investigators said there are more Rosh Ha'ayin police officers and police volunteers involved in criminal activity.

They are also investigating two Rosh Ha'ayin police officers

who drove a unlicensed motorcycle, which might be stolen property.

"From time to time we all have bad seeds," Insp. Gen. Yehuda Wilk said. "In this case, we will take strong action against these bad seeds and will expel them from the force, so we'll have a cleaner, more honest force."

Wilk emphasized that in most cases it is the police itself which gives the Justice Ministry information allowing it to open an investigation.

Remains could be brought to Israel

Poland offers to identify bones of Holocaust victims

By JUDY SIEGEL and news agencies

Forensic specialists in Warsaw are ready to conduct genetic tests on the remains of Jews buried in Polish cemeteries to check if they belong to relatives of Holocaust survivors who live in Israel, Prof. Yehuda Hiss, director of the Institute for Forensic Medicine in Abu Kabir, disclosed yesterday.

Hiss, who was born in Poland, returned last week from a visit to Warsaw, where he met heads of the local forensic medicine institute. "They feel bad about the Holocaust and the crosses at Auschwitz, but that's a political matter," Hiss said.

When he told the Polish doctors of a few dozen Israeli families who had asked him for help in identifying the remains of their loved ones in Polish cemeteries, the Poles offered their help in conducting genetic examinations of bone samples that could be removed from graves.

Until 1941, hundreds of thou-

sands of Polish Jews who died of natural causes or in pogroms were buried in cemeteries. But most of them cannot be identified, either because the cemeteries were paved over or because existing cemeteries are badly maintained and many monuments are missing or broken.

Most of the Holocaust victims were gassed and cremated, and the ashes were dumped. However thousands were shot by the Germans and buried in mass graves, or packed into synagogues which were set on fire.

These victims were also buried, said Stephan Grayek, head of the Federation of Polish Immigrants and a survivor of the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

The agreement was welcomed by Avraham Burg, chairman of the Jewish Agency, as "very important for Holocaust survivors who never had a chance to bury their loved ones here during the communist regime in Eastern Europe."

Yad Vashem declined to comment.

Some families here are unsure exactly where their relatives are buried but want to bring the bones here, Hiss explained. He did not think many skeletons would actually be brought here, since most are not the remains of relatives of Israelis, and few of the relatives would want to exhume and rebury them.

Hiss said that "now is the last chance" for bringing the bones to Israel, since their first-degree relatives are aged 80 or 90. A rabbi would be on hand to ensure that the bone sampling and eventual exhumation would be carried out properly by the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Warsaw, he said.

Hiss said he had not asked any government ministry for approval of the idea, but noted that if state funding were required, the government would have to okay it.

Asked whether taking care of needy Israeli survivors in nursing homes and psychiatric institutions would be a better use of funds, Hiss said there is no connection between the two.

The Polish forensic specialists can conduct genetic tests very cheaply - at a few hundred shekels each - but they would not pay for the tests. The costs of financing the flight of bones, and their burial, would be significant.

"The families would pay for this, unless they couldn't afford it or there were hundreds of requests. In that case, I would ask the Jewish Agency or the Foreign Ministry to consider covering the costs."

Hiss said that last week, representatives of 10 of the 40 families who had called the Abu Kabir institute presented information on where their relatives were said to be buried. Those seeking identification of bones would have to give a blood sample to be sent to Warsaw.

Grayek said the families, by bringing their relatives' remains to Israel, would be able to visit the graves regularly and could be confident that their resting place would be permanent and would not be disturbed.



Visiting dignitaries

Mickey and Minnie Mouse visit yesterday with Arik Yitzhaki, 11, a cancer patient at the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel. (Dan Orensky/Israel Sun)

Prosecution tries to jar memory of man accused of aiding SS

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

NEW YORK (AP) - The memory of Jack Reimer, 79, accused of helping the Nazi SS massacre Polish Jews during World War II, took center stage at a trial to determine his role in the Holocaust.

Reimer's memory has been at issue since 1992, when government lawyers elicited enough facts from the former restaurateur to bring a civil case in US District Court in Manhattan to take away his US citizenship.

A frustrated Reimer was reduced Tuesday to answering questions by saying, "I don't remember anyone," or, "I'd like to answer you, but I can't."

He referred to Hitler's order to grant citizenship to foreign-born, ethnic Germans such as himself as the "decree of what's-his-name." He briefly paused as if thinking and then added, "Hitler," prompting laughter among the mostly Jewish spectators.

"Most of it is all foggy," he said. "It's all forgotten. It's all over."

Judge Lawrence McKenna, hearing the case without a jury, listened while a government lawyer picked apart Reimer's various accounts of his activities during the war.

Edward A. Stutman, a senior trial attorney with the US Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations, played excerpts from a 1992 interview in which Reimer, of Carmel, N.Y., described firing a rifle once into a pit of bodies.

The government conducted the interview after obtaining new information about Reimer's activities and his entry into the United States six years after the war.

At that time, Reimer described a massacre outside the Trawniki training camp in Poland in which 40 to 60 men were left dead inside a huge pit. He also said he'd missed the mass shooting because he was asleep in his barracks but was awakened and arrived in time to fire a single shot toward a man pointing at his head in a plea for a mercy killing.

In testimony on Tuesday, Reimer recalled a very different scene. He said that no more than eight men had been killed in a

small pit located near the Trawniki camp.

Reimer told the court that he had incorrectly assumed in 1992 that the dead men were Jewish but said he now knows that they were not because the shooting occurred months before the massacre of the Jewish population began.

While in the 1992 interview, Reimer agreed with a lawyer's suggestion that he fired toward the man in the pit pointing at his head and acknowledged that he may have "finished him off." Reimer testified Tuesday that he purposefully shot over the bodies.

"I exaggerated everything," he said, adding that he had been so traumatized by the moment that it distorted itself in his mind. "It's all wrong what I said in '92. I want you to realize that," Reimer said the images of the Holocaust he saw after the war also influenced his memory.

"Shooting stays more on your mind than anything else," he said. "It grows in your head." Still, he told the court that the man in the pit was alive.

He said he arrived late at the pit because he had knocked himself unconscious after hitting his head on a board while trying to wake up his colleagues in a pitch-black cabin.

Stutman, the Justice Department lawyer questioning Reimer, appeared pleased to elicit that admission because Reimer at other times has insisted everybody in the hole was dead when he arrived.

Reimer repeatedly defended his honesty and insisted that he had never been to a Jewish ghetto, despite Stutman's insistence that he had to have been assigned to more than payroll duty during several weeks in Warsaw.

"Isn't it true you were doing other things in Warsaw during the liquidation of the ghetto?" Stutman asked.

"I had nothing to do with the men, what they were doing," Reimer responded.

Stutman read from documents and played audio portions of the 1992 interview to try to resurrect Reimer's memory.

Sarid warns of 'explosion' at Joseph's Tomb

By LIAT COLLINS

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid yesterday warned that developments at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus are "dangerous" and may soon become explosive.

"The tension has reached new heights and could explode any moment," he said. "There is no justification for unilaterally violating the arrangements which existed at the site before the murder at Yitzhar and which allowed it to exist as a place of worship, not a settlement."

Tensions have been mounting at the tomb in recent days, with

Palestinian police seeking to thwart yeshiva students from staying there overnight. The students were given permission to do so by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe Yahlon to mark the seven day mourning period for Shlomo Liebman and Harel Bin-Nun. They were killed by Palestinian assailants earlier this month at the nearby Yitzhar settlement.

After the mourning period, Yahlon granted an extension for further overnight stays, and Palestinian police began to bar the entry of the students, who are ultra-nationalists.

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet), chairman of the Land of Israel Front, on said there is no reason under the Oslo Accords to prevent Jews from staying at Joseph's Tomb.

"The Palestinian request to remove them is a gross violation of Oslo and an attack on the right of Jews to pray and worship at their holy sites," he said.

The Government Press Office issued a bulletin Tuesday that the Palestinian Authority's refusal to allow worshippers into Joseph's Tomb violates the Oslo Accords, which obliges the PA to safeguard holy sites and ensure free access.

Palestinians view the reinforcing of the tomb as an effort to plant a Jewish settlement in the heart of Nablus.

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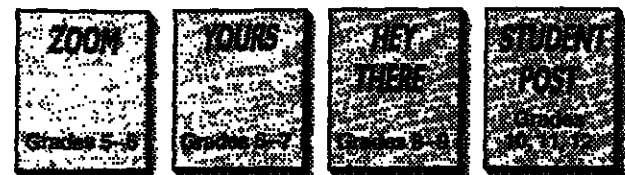
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Ministry to close Beersheba hazardous material terminal

By LIAT COLLINS

Environment Minister Raphael Eitan has ordered the director of the ministry's southern district office to take action to close the rail terminal for hazardous materials in Beersheba.

The terminal, in the northeast of the city, handles some 150,000 tons of hazardous materials a year, including some 10,000 tons of particularly dangerous and highly

inflammable substances.

A ministry survey has determined that the area within an 800-meter radius of the terminal is a high-risk zone and, for that reason, the ministry opposed the construction of a residential neighborhood within that radius. The construction went ahead, but the ministry is refusing to grant permission for residents to move in until the terminal has been closed.

The ministry issued a warning

about the terminal on August 10 under the Business Licensing Law and stated it intends to close the site.

On July 1, a report by the Fire and Rescue Service determined that there are unacceptable fire prevention conditions at the terminal and a consequent risk to life and property.

At a meeting yesterday, Eitan said the terminal should be immediately closed and described it as "a daily threat to lives in the area." He repeated the ministry's stand

that the nearby neighborhood cannot be safely populated as long as the terminal still operates.

Eitan is demanding that Israel Railways prepare a terminal at the Ramat Hovav toxic waste site and industrial area, where hazardous materials could be directly unloaded.

Also yesterday, the Treasury approved an urgent request by Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen for NIS

13 million to begin renovating work at the Ramat Hovav dump. The money should be transferred to the ministry by the end of the current fiscal year.

A team was also established to discuss future needs and find the \$40 million deemed necessary to improve the site: \$31 million for general renovations and \$9 million for incinerators to burn the huge accumulation of organic materials at the site.



Elephant party

The elephants at the Tisch Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem celebrate the birthday of Israeli-born Chapati (second from left), who turned four this week.

Six Iraqi prisoners end hunger strike

Jerusalem Post Staff

The six Iraqi prisoners who had been on a hunger strike for 10 days ended their fast yesterday after meeting with MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) at Hasharon Prison.

The prisoners started their strike after Canada retracted its promise to grant them asylum. They have been imprisoned, without trial, for five years and are afraid they will spend more years in jail before a solution to their problem is found.

In a progress report submitted in January 1997 to the High Court of Justice, which the six had petitioned seeking refugee status, the state said that intelligence information indicates that they are in fact foreign intelligence agents who came here to spy. Therefore, it said, releasing them would endanger state security.

The six said they were ceasing their strike for 30 days in the hope that a solution could be found within that time.

After meeting with the six, Zucker approached the Palestinian Authority, asking that it grant them refuge in its territory.

Hygiene better at east J'lem hotels

By JUDY BEGER

Hygiene at 24 eastern Jerusalem hotels has improved, according to the results of surveys conducted by the Jerusalem District Health Office and the municipality released yesterday. The average score, on a scale of one to 10, was 5.8, compared to the previous score of 3.9 in 1996. Most of the hotels are occupied by Christian and Moslem tourists.

Various parameters were examined, including the storage of dry foods; storage in refrigerators; disinfecting of vegetables; separation of different functions in food preparation; general cleanliness in the kitchen; and purchase of food from a safe source. When rated for separation of cleaning materials and food, and the appearance of staffs' clothing, there was a regression.

The American Colony Hotel rated 9; the Pilgrims, Intercontinental, Meridian, Ambassador and Strand each received an 8. At the bottom of the list were the Mount of Olives with a 1 and Capital with 2 out of 10.

The biggest improvements were at the Strand, whose rating doubled, the Ritz, which went from 2 to 8, and the Chabad, which rose from 1 to 5.

Jaffa Gate to get a face lift

By AMY KLEIN

Jerusalem's Old City is about to become more accessible, following renovations to the path leading to the Jaffa Gate that resume in September. The restoration of a section of the Old City wall, discovered in the 1980s, will double the width of the path.

The wall was built in the 11th century and extends some 20 meters beyond today's walls, which were built in the mid-16th century.

An archaeological excavation along the Jaffa Gate revealed the 80-meter-long medieval wall, which reaches a height of 4.5 meters and

supports the walkway leading towards the gate.

A small portion of the wall was restored, but due to lack of funding, the Jerusalem Municipality halted construction three years ago. Aluminum siding extending above the unrestored parts of the wall borders the Carob Walkway — the path which leads from the end of Jaffa Road to Jaffa Gate.

Karta, the public construction company partially owned by the municipality, will work for three months to restore the wall. The project will cost NIS 680,000, said Yitzhak Ya'acobi, an advisor to Karta's chairman of the board.

After the wall is restored, Karta intends to build an archeological garden by its base extending to the tunnel under Jaffa Gate, next to ruins of an ancient Byzantine bathhouse.

Zichroni questioned in Strashnov Affair

Attorney Amnon Zichroni, the lawyer for convicted traitor Nehem Strashnov, whose petition to the High Court of Justice last month launched what has come to be known as the Strashnov Affair, was questioned yesterday at the National Security Council's headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Amnon Strashnov and his brother, Yehonatan, were the main defendants in the trial of Yehonatan Strashnov, who was the pre-

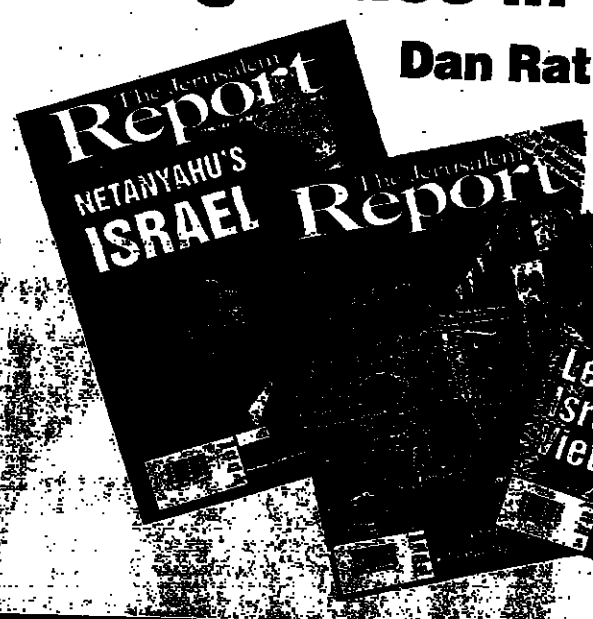
attorney Pinhas Yonai was invited back for further questioning, some of it under caution. Shai Barak, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's former spokesman and a friend of Yonai's, is expected to testify in the near future.

Zichroni had claimed in his petition that during Yonai's trial, Yonai was unfairly treated and that the trial was a sham.

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Presidential lying: An 'occupational disease'

By ROBERT SHOGAN

WASHINGTON — "Resolve to be honest at all events," attorney Abraham Lincoln once declared in a lecture on the legal profession. "And, if in your own judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation."

By keeping faith with this maxim, both as a lawyer and as president of the United States, Lincoln earned for himself the sobriquet of Honest Abe. But a fair number of the nation's chief executives have failed to adhere to that same high standard, as demonstrated by the confession this week of another lawyer-president, Bill Clinton, that he had lied to the country about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

"You might say lying is an occupational disease of presidents," said Stanley Kutler, University of Wisconsin historian and editor of *Abuse of Power*, a compilation of Richard M. Nixon's Watergate tapes. "Certainly hyperbole and exaggeration and self-contradictions are not unknown to them. These go with the territory."

What makes both the lies Clinton told about Lewinsky and Nixon told about Watergate rare in the annals of presidential mendacity is that both men were trying mainly to shield themselves rather than protect a policy of their presidency. Just as Clinton, in his brief address to the nation, conceded that he was motivated "first by a desire to protect myself from the embarrassment of my own conduct," Nixon wrote in his post-presi-

dential memoirs that his decision to deny any knowledge of the Watergate cover-up was inspired by "the desperate search for ways to limit the damage to my friends, my administration and to myself."

More typical of presidential departures from the truth was President Eisenhower's denial in 1960 that the United States was using the U2 plane for spy flights over the Soviet Union—a denial designed to protect US intelligence operations at the height of the Cold War.

"There's a very important distinction between either lying and misleading for security purposes, which is at least motivated by a judgment as to what's best for the country," and the sort of lying Clinton and Nixon did, "which is pernicious," said University of Wisconsin presi-

dential scholar Charles Jones.

Technically, Eisenhower did not himself tell a lie. Instead, after the Soviet Union announced that it had shot down a U2 plane, he authorized the National Space Agency to issue a statement falsely claiming that the U2 was merely on a meteorological mission. But this shielding did not spare the president severe embarrassment when Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev revealed to the world that the pilot of the plane, Francis Gary Powers, had been captured alive, disproving the US cover story and leading to the collapse of a planned summit conference.

A more ambiguous act of presidential misleading for national security purposes was perpetrated by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 following a

supposed attack on US ships by the North Vietnamese. Johnson used the incident to stymie Congress into approving the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which granted him a free hand to deploy military forces in Southeast Asia and led to steady escalation of US involvement. The war stirred bitter divisions at home and ultimately wrecked Johnson's presidency.

Apart from the tangible damage that presidential lying does to the country, it also can damage the institution of the presidency. "Presidents are chiefs of states and are supposed to be national symbols," points out Ohio University Truman scholar Alonzo Hamby. "If they look you in the eye on television and tell you something and you find out it's not true it has an impact." (Los Angeles Times)

Clinton family seeks calm after the storm

By TERRY NEAL
and PAMELA FERDINAND

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Mass. — At 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, with the sun shining faintly behind a hazy gray cloud, President Clinton stepped off Air Force One with his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea and his dog Buddy and headed right toward a mostly enthusiastic, sometimes adoring crowd that gathered to welcome him back.

It would have been like any of the Clintons' other three previous trips to the Vineyard for August vacation, were it not for the subtle reminders from people like Jack Griffin, visiting from Springfield, Mass. "Live and let live," Griffin yelled, as he plunged to the front of the greeting line waiting for Clinton off the tarmac at the airport. "We're with ya, baby. We're with ya!"

Tamara Benton, who had watched the president's televised remarks Monday night, was also there to greet him, working her way to the front the line and grasping Clinton's hand for a second. "Ahh!" the 26-year-old secretary from Edgartown, with her friends standing nearby. "He looked right at me. He's so good looking."

Benton and Griffin were among the hundreds of people who trekked to the airport to greet Clinton and his family as they began their vacation away from the harsh spotlight of Washington, where innumerable pundits debated his future a day after he publicly admitted he had misled the country about his relationship with former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky.

As if the most humiliating moment of his political career had not occurred just hours before, Clinton walked along the line greeting the throng of people who interrupted their day to catch a glimpse of their most famous neighbor — in an enclave filled with the rich and/or famous — for



US President Clinton holds the leash of the family dog 'Buddy' as he walks away from Air Force One with his daughter Chelsea, as they arrive on Martha's Vineyard Tuesday evening for a two-week family vacation. At rear left, family friend Vernon Jordan looks on. (AP)

the next 12 days. But among those who came to see Clinton, there were those who were disturbed by his announcement Monday night.

"I just thought it was really annoying," said Bridget Salvi, an attorney from Chicago on vacation with her husband Joe and their 2-year-old son. The Salvis said they voted for Clinton in the past two elections. "I mean, it seemed like he blamed everybody, the media, Ken Starr, Congress, everybody, instead of just accepting the blame for what he did."

But they seemed to be the minority. At the airport, Clinton worked the crowd for about a half hour, and many people held signs with encouraging messages such as "I support Bill" and "Welcome back Bill and Hillary." Afterward, the president retreated to the secluded Oyster Pond compound of Boston developer Richard Friedman, who has hosted the family in the past.

Clinton spokesman Mike McCurry said Tuesday night that the president planned on spending much time with his family, which "has some healing to do." And he insisted that Clinton was more worried about the reaction of his family than the reaction of voters in the inevitable polls that began coming out Tuesday.

McCurry left open the likelihood the president would participate in some official events, perhaps out of town, next week. But mostly, he plans to relax by "chilling" with his family and perhaps playing golf with buddy Vernon E. Jordan, who along with singer Cary Simon, was there to greet the family at the airport. The president was also considering attending some sort of small, yet unplanned, get-together with friends Wednesday to celebrate his birthday.

"I think they're going to stay put for the balance of this week," McCurry said. "They are definitely looking forward to this vacation." (The Washington Post)

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America from Pakistan

By RAJU CHENNAI

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...early yesterday after being ...
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The US government ...
...ordered private US citizens ...
...but 50 embassy and consul ...
...nel to leave after re ...
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...Americans in Pakistan cou ...
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"We're all dedicated to ...
...were doing in Pakistan," ...
...disappointed to have le ...
...now," said Stephen Had ...
...arrived on the flight ...
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Swiss to charge Bhutto with money laundering

GENEVA (Reuters) — A ...
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...yesterday he was ...
...charges against Pakistan ...
...prime minister Benazir ...
...for money laundering. ...
...contracts with two Swi ...
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Judge Daniel D ...
...already indicted Bhutto ...
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...evidence to Pakistan ...
...The Oxford-edu ...
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...November 1996 and ...
...the opposition, deni ...
...siphoned millions ...
...ou of the country ...
...rule.

Source: Clinton admitted to oral sex with Lewinsky

By LARRY MARZASAK

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton admitted engaging in specific sexual acts with Monica Lewinsky in his testimony to a grand jury, providing a much more explicit description of their relationship than he gave the public Monday night, a legal source said.

Prosecutors have summoned Lewinsky back to the grand jury today to compare her story with the president's account, gathering material likely to be included in any impeachment report to Congress.

In his testimony at the White House on Monday, Clinton first read a prepared statement in which he admitted engaging in what he described as inappropriate, intimate physical contact with Lewinsky, said a source familiar with Clinton's testimony.

Only when pressed by prosecutors' questions did the president acknowledge the type of contact — that Lewinsky performed oral sex on him on several occasions, the source said.

Clinton said during his Monday night speech to the nation that his sworn testimony in January, in which he denied sexual relations with Ms. Lewinsky, was "legally accurate." Clinton's advisers say he was referring to a specific definition of sexual relations that was used in Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit. Jones' lawyers wrote that definition and gave it to Clinton for his deposition in January. His advisers have interpreted it as

excluding oral sex performed on him.

The definition read: "For the purposes of this deposition, a person engages in 'sexual relations' when the person knowingly engages in or causes — contact with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person with an intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person."

With the president and his family on vacation in Massachusetts, the political repercussions continued over Clinton's confession.

Several Democrats expressed disappointment that Clinton misled the nation, a few Republicans — Majority Whip Tom DeLay among them — demanded the president's resignation, and some members of both parties adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

The president, the first lady, their daughter, Chelsea, and their dog, Buddy, got away from the tension in Washington, flying to Martha's Vineyard for a 12-day vacation.

On the day Lewinsky testified, Clinton, presiding over a televised ceremony in the White House Rose Garden, wore a gold-and-navy tie that has drawn the interest of prosecutors. A Clinton adviser familiar with his testimony said independent counsel Kenneth Starr's team told the president that Lewinsky had given him the tie, and asked whether he was sending her a signal by wearing it.

The source said Clinton laughed — a rare moment of levity Monday — and suggested it was possible she gave him the tie. But he said he was not trying to communicate anything to

her.

Clinton's allies view the anecdote, first reported by *The New York Times*, as a sign of how hard Starr is pressing to prove a case of obstruction of justice against the president.

There was little chance Ms. Lewinsky could have seen Clinton's live appearance on television that day. She spent the full day in the courthouse, entering at 8:29 a.m. He began speaking from the Rose Garden at 11:06 a.m.

In the congressional reaction, DeLay and House Speaker Newt Gingrich went in different directions.

"The president should resign for the good of the country," DeLay, R-Texas, said. The president "has lied to his family, his friends, his Cabinet, the Congress and the American people."

But with Starr moving close to sending Congress a report on possible impeachable offenses, Gingrich cautioned fellow Republicans to wait for the evidence.

"I think that everyone would be best served if they waited for Judge Starr's report and found out what all the facts were," he told reporters in Georgia.

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, which would handle an initial impeachment inquiry, said many questions remain unanswered and until Starr has submitted a report, "we simply should not speculate about how the House would proceed."



A young boy lines up to wait yesterday with other residents of the Congolese capital Kinshasa at a gas station to buy a small ration of kerosene. Tutsi-backed rebels took control of the power plants that provide electricity to Kinshasa, leaving the city without power or water. (AP)

Congo braced for battle

KINSHASA, Democratic Republic of Congo (Reuters) — The Democratic Republic of Congo braced yesterday for a decisive battle, possibly involving foreign armies, as neighboring countries dithered over how to defuse the crisis threatening the region.

As troops loyal to President Laurent Kabila prepared to face Rwandan-backed rebels just 120 km southwest of Kinshasa, with clashes already reported, members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) gave mixed signals.

Zimbabwean Defense Minister Mosen Mosen told the British Broadcasting Corporation an SADC meeting in Harare had agreed to send Kabila arms and troops, and Kenyan Foreign Minister Bonaya Godana said the rebels could face foreign armies.

Angola's Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Chicote told Reuters: "We have taken a col-

lective decision that all kind of help should be given to President Kabila, including military support... There is a war going on here and it has got to stop."

But South Africa, the current head of the SADC, sent only a junior official to the two-day meeting and President Nelson Mandela said the country had not agreed to take part in any military operation in the Congo.

"Our attitude is clear in regard to this problem. It is not to worsen the position by sending a military force," he told reporters in Pretoria.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Belgian daily *Le Soir*, Rwandan leader Paul Kagame, whose troops helped propel Kabila to power just 15 months ago, said his country's future was at stake.

"We have to be concerned about our security before everything, about our development, certainly after the terrible trials which this country has seen," he

said, declining to confirm that his troops were involved in the current rebellion.

Kabila accuses Rwanda and Uganda, who helped him oust veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in May 1997, of fighting alongside ethnic Tutsi and other rebels who took up arms in the east on August 2.

Rebel commanders in the former Zaire reported fighting at the military base of Mbanza Nguungu in the strategic River-Congo corridor linking Kinshasa to the sea.

In Kinshasa, where a power cut ran into a third day, there was no trace of Kabila and growing uncertainty gripped the population of five million with overnight reports of shooting.

"If Kinshasa falls, that is the absolute end," one government official said.

But he added that Congolese soldiers fresh from training in Tanzania had arrived, and extra tanks had been sent to the front.

Polls: Growing number want Monica probe to end

By WILL LESTER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton's strong job approval ratings survived in polls taken just after his address to the nation about Monica Lewinsky, but most think he didn't tell the whole truth.

The polls also showed that a growing number of Americans want the investigation of the president to end now, that he has admitted his involvement with Lewinsky. And they don't want him to resign or be impeached.

About two-thirds of Americans want the investigation to end — 69 percent in an ABC News poll, 65 percent in a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll and 63 percent in a CBS News/New York Times poll, all taken after Clinton's address to the nation. And the president's job approval ratings remain steady, above 60%.

Polls conducted immediately after an event are not always a reliable gauge of what will happen later, cautioned Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

"Sometimes delayed reactions

are substantially different from initial reactions," Kohut said.

But the immediate signs for Clinton were generally good.

"Our polling after the speech shows a 10-point bump in the president's favor on the questions of whether he should remain in office and whether the investigation should simply end now," said ABC News pollster Gary Langer.

Solid poll numbers could be important to Clinton when the investigation moves from the legal arena to the political if Congress considers an expected report from special prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

Clinton is still seen as trustworthy enough to be president, more than half said in a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll released yesterday.

The Gallup poll released Monday showed the number of people with a favorable opinion of the president dropping from 60 percent to 40 percent after his speech. But a wording change in the question may have produced the difference, the pollster reported yesterday.

In Monday night's poll, respondents were asked to judge

Clinton's favorability "as a person." That phrase was not included in previous polls.

When the question was asked again Tuesday night with the original wording, the result was a 55% rating, very close to his favorability rating before the speech.

Frank Newport, editor-in-chief of the Gallup Poll, said the key measurements of the president's performance remained steady, such as job approval and the 69% who think he should not be impeached.

Half of those who saw the speech said they were satisfied with the explanation, but only a third in the Gallup survey said they thought Clinton had told the whole truth before the grand jury.

Two-thirds of Americans said Clinton should have admitted his involvement with Lewinsky sooner, according to the CBS/ABC poll.

The ABC poll of 587 adults had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points. The Gallup poll of 633 adults and the CBS/ABC survey of 403 adults had a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Over 200 feared dead in India landslide

LUCKNOW, India (Reuters) — More than 200 people, many of them Hindu pilgrims, were feared dead yesterday after a huge landslide hit a remote mountain road in northern India, officials said.

"According to latest information reaching here, nearly 210 people are missing and most of them are feared dead," Uttar Pradesh state's top civil servant, Naresh Dayal, said.

Among the missing were 60 pilgrims who had been on their way to a holy lake in Tibet when the landslide hit their makeshift camp at Malapa, near India's border with China, on Tuesday.

"The landslide covers an area of one square kilometer and is close to the Kali River which can be ferocious when it is in spate," an Indian Foreign Ministry official said.

"Seven bodies have been sighted. Five of them are retrievable," a government official said.

Officials in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh state, said a first rescue team of 65 army and border police personnel had reached the landslide zone.

Americans evacuated from Pakistan arrive home

By RAJU CHERRIAN

LINTHICUM, Md. (AP) — About 220 US citizens, most of them embassy personnel and their families, arrived back in the US early yesterday after being ordered out of Pakistan.

The US government on Monday ordered private US citizens and all but 50 embassy and consulate personnel to leave after receiving warnings that the estimated 6,700 Americans in Pakistan could be in danger in the aftermath of the deadly embassy bombings in Africa.

"We're all dedicated to what we were doing in Pakistan. We were disappointed to have left right now," said Stephen Hadler, who arrived on the flight into Baltimore-Washington

International Airport with his wife and two daughters. "Certainly my family is ready to go back as soon as it's safe."

On August 7, near-simultaneous bombings of the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killed 257 people and injured thousands.

On Sunday, the Pakistani government said a suspect in the bombings had been caught trying to slip through Pakistan to neighboring Afghanistan. He was sent back to Nairobi for questioning.

Ambassador Thomas Simons has said the warning to Americans was not directly linked to the capture, but was due to a "pattern of threats" since the bombings.

Eighty children were among the contingent that arrived yesterday, along with 20 pets.

UN envoy: Iraq dispute not a crisis

By WAMEL FALEH

BAGHDAD (AP) — A UN envoy left Baghdad yesterday saying Iraq-UN relations had not reached a crisis despite his failure to convince the government to allow resumption of weapons inspections.

"I still think that a lot of discussion, negotiations and bilateral talks can take place," Prakash Shah, the envoy to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, said before leaving for New York.

Shah's departure came a day after he announced he had failed to persuade Iraqi officials to back down from the decision earlier this month to cut off relations with the inspectors charged with finding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq said it refused cooperation because the inspectors were not

really working toward lifting UN sanctions on Iraq that prevent the free export of oil, its most valuable commodity.

Under UN resolutions, the inspectors must declare Iraq has eliminated its lethal weapons before the sanctions, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, can be canceled.

Shah was to arrive today in New York and would later brief Annan on his talks with Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz.

Before leaving Iraq, Shah said he still hoped a solution could be found to allow resumption of inspections.

"I will not say it is a crisis," he said. "I think and I hope that the (UN) Security Council and Iraq would be able to work this out."

Shah described his talks with Aziz as "friendly and cordial" and said he was ready to return for

further negotiations with the Iraqis.

"If the council wishes further discussions, I will be prepared," he said.

Shah arrived last Thursday with a message from Annan to Aziz about the latest standoff.

Annan, meanwhile, is now willing to discuss with the Security Council a possible role for himself in trying to break the crisis, his spokesman said Tuesday.

The secretary-general is prepared to "see what it is they want him to do and whether he thinks it will make a difference," Fred Eckhard said.

Neither Annan nor the Security Council appeared to be in a hurry to take this next step, however.

After Iraq cut off relations with the inspectors, the UN Security Council declared the move unacceptable.

Swiss to charge Bhutto with money laundering

GENEVA (Reuters) — A Swiss investigating magistrate said yesterday he was pressing charges against Pakistan's ex-prime minister Benazir Bhutto for money laundering linked to contracts with two Swiss companies.

Judge Daniel Devaud, has already indicted Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, on similar charges and sent 766 pages of evidence to Pakistan.

The Oxford-educated Bhutto, fired as prime minister in November 1996 and now leading opposition, denies accusations that she siphoned millions of dollars out of the country during her

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The nomads nobody wants

The influx of Gypsies into France and other parts of Europe is forcing local officials to deal with the problem, Charles Trueheart reports.

TONNOY, France—For the 28 years he has been mayor of this pleasant village on the banks of the Moselle River, Claude Balland has watched Gypsies come and Gypsies go, helping themselves to land, water, sanitation facilities and occasionally private property.

He has listened to the complaints of the 650 townspeople, and likewise to the assurances of indifferent bureaucrats far from the problem.

Last week Balland got fed up. When about 60 Gypsy vehicles appeared August 9 and settled on their customary piece of land by the river, Balland opted for trench warfare. Two days later a backhoe arrived and proceeded to gouge a three-foot-deep ditch along the front and side of the Gypsy encampment.

The Gypsies still had two places of ingress and egress, and free access to water and the campground facility across the road, despite their presence on what Balland says is private property and they say is not.

But the mayor's gesture was not about restricting movement. It was pure, if crude, symbolism

— in a battlefield-scarred corner of Europe where trenches have grim meaning. And Balland's act had its intended effects, including offending the Gypsies.

"I'm 63 years old and I've been all over France and outside it, and it's the first time I've seen anything like this," said Henri Lagrene, a Gypsy and an evangelical pastor to whom the camp dwellers deferred for comment. "The mayor is a racist, he's not Catholic at all."

Balland said, "I wanted to rap on the table. I'm a little mayor, but when I do a... bold stroke like that it gets the attention of the powers that be. It brought the TV cameras. It brought you."

His digging stunt earned him ridicule in some Paris newspapers, but it also spurred the top official in his French department to call a meeting to work on the problem. Balland hopes the government in Paris will rewrite the existing law — which allows Gypsies the right to use public land for up to eight days and charges local communities

with providing them with water and sanitation — after listening to local communities that have to deal with this largely exurban social problem.

Tonnoy's plight, and that of its 300 unwanted visitors, is small but telling. Across Europe, this benighted, fragmented, nomadic community of people has been vexing settled peoples for a millennium.

This year alone, boatloads of Gypsies fleeing persecution, such as skinhead attacks, have migrated out of Slovakia and the Czech Republic and have been turning up in Canada and Britain, prompting Czech President Vaclav Havel to lecture his people on tolerance. Gypsies in Germany are protesting their designation as such in official records. In Longuyon, a hamlet near Tonnoy, the mayor shut down the municipal pool for the duration of another flock of Gypsies' visit.

Today the Gypsies speak the language of political asylum and Geneva human rights conventions, are conversant with their rights under French law

versus German law, and have attracted significant attention in Europe as a problem not of immigration but of continuous migration and statelessness.

These are not storybook Gypsies, rattling tambourines, living in colorful covered wagons, stealing children. Today's European Gypsies in their caravans of trucks, buses and trailers look like ordinary American campers, circa 1965. Their barbecues, outdoor furniture, satellite dishes and cellular phones make them virtually indistinguishable from the vacationers in the legal Tonnoy campground just across the mayor's big ditch and the road.

"They have a love of liberty. They don't want to negotiate it. They want to go when they want to go," said Daniel Maunoury, a housing activist working with Gypsies near Paris. "But that doesn't work in France. . . . Those who think for themselves don't fit."

The Gypsies got their name from their once-supposed origins, in Egypt; they are thought more reliably to have originated as a people in northern India.

Their ancestors migrated westward and into the Mediterranean basin about 1,000 years ago and had reached the British Isles by 1500.

Often known as Romany people, from their early concentrations in what is now Romania, they are a presence on the margins of national life in every European country. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees says they number 8 million in Europe, although statistics are unreliable for such unregistered, unfixed people.

What is more certain is that they are "the outcasts among the outcasts," as Catholic prelate Jacques Gaillot said last week.

As such, Gypsies are challenging modern societies — for which a fixed address is the bare minimum qualification for delivering social services, education, and public housing — to deal with a small, impoverished and impermanent diaspora that defies all definitions of citizenship.

Their public support is slender, even after suffering the extermination of an estimated 500,000 who died, along with 6

million Jews, at the hands of the Nazis before and during World War II. They still are viewed with loathing and fear wherever they go.

Balland, for one, isn't surprised by the prejudice. When the Gypsies are here, he said, tires disappear from construction vehicles, a bakery storage hut is cleaned out, petty thefts abound. This week, he said, his wife answered the door to a few Gypsies selling a soup tureen. When she declined, "they damned her, said she would burn in hell."

To this, Lagrene said: "The mayor is a liar. Once upon a time among the Gypsies there were drunks, fighters, people who stole chickens. During the war a guy came after my father with a pitchfork when he tried to buy a chicken from him. So he was forced to steal the chicken to feed his kids. Jesus said this was all right."

But now, he said, "there are no more people like that among us. Now people have money. They sell their wares in the market. Look how clean this place is. It's spotless," he said, pointing

to the blue and tent where he holds vices. "This is how people have accepted of the Lord."

Lagrene represents a group of Gypsies, an evangelical religion unlike the majority: Gypsies, who are Catholicism. They cut from the same cloth as the rest of the flock and are dark-eyed, but the minority are and blue-eyed. The be Gypsies strict but what British

"New Age travelers van dwellers" who up with the old movement of all.

The characteristics of Gypsies is in the Lagrene, a tzigane whose forebears in France for many years have relatives in Pa house and good job summer comes, to get on the road. way we are."

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JKG to JFK: Advice from the perennial oracle

LETTERS TO KENNEDY by John Kenneth Galbraith. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 158 pp. \$24.95.

By Shimshon Arad

Compulsive advice-givers have on occasion played a useful role. Instinctively, we incline to question and suspect unsolicited counsel, for it invariably reflects ulterior motives. But when the advice is offered to a willing recipient, it indicates a sense of appreciation beyond the amenities of courtesy. Galbraith's new book reveals a relationship between him and JFK which suggests the category of the willing recipient. Galbraith feels the need to explain why his letters to Kennedy should now be published. After a careful reading, one is not fully persuaded that they all deserve to be preserved for posterity, but a good many of them contribute to our knowledge, and the reader could simply skip the rest.

John Kennedy was an extraordinarily intelligent person despite the repeated efforts by neoconservatives for almost 35 years to debunk him. He was, says Galbraith, a prodigious reader and "far from uncritical in his reactions." He did not suffer fools gladly, nor "did he suffer bad prose." Galbraith rightly thought that there were diverse matters which should be brought to Kennedy's attention and that his prose was attractive. He was certainly right as far as the prose was concerned. Their relations started

in the '50s when JFK was still in Congress and continued unabated after he was elected president in 1960.

The letters are divided between politics, economics and foreign policy. Those on domestic politics may have been helpful to Kennedy at the time, but seem to be of minor significance historically. The observations and suggestions on economic subjects are worth reading, but the most interesting letters are the ones Galbraith dispatched as ambassador in India. Some of those were included in Galbraith's *Ambassador's Journal*, which was published in 1969.

Galbraith was never popular among the senior members of the foreign policy establishment. Few would endorse his claim that Communism "was not a viable threat in the Third World." He argued rather dogmatically that "before you could have Communism, there had to be capitalism," and that in the poor peasant society both Communism and capitalism were irrelevant. The State Department countered this view by referring to the overall Soviet expansionist patterns of behavior as ominous. Secretary of state Dean Rusk and assistant secretary Phil Talbot perceived the whole struggle in Southeast Asia more in the context of the rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union and/or China, and drew operative conclusions from that basic approach. From our general knowledge of Kennedy's basic conception in the early '60s, it appears that he too was predomi-

nantly concerned with the global scene. He was curious, however, to receive the dissenting views of his trusted friend in New Delhi.

There was a problem of how to ensure that Galbraith's letters to the president would actually reach him. Rusk asked McGee Bundy, the national security adviser, to have the letters go via the State Department. Kennedy asked Galbraith what he thought of Rusk's exhortation, and Galbraith replied that "communicating through the Department would be like fornicating through the mattress." The direct channel was kept open. That did not endear Galbraith to Rusk and Talbot.

In the letters on "politics" one finds a reference in January 1962 which reveals Kennedy's annoyance that the *New York Times* was "harder" on him than it had been on Eisenhower. Being a personal friend of John Oakes, then editor of the editorial page of the paper, Galbraith lunched with him and could report to Kennedy that "we are better with the Times" - or so he thought. In March 1962, Galbraith, the ambassador, asks the president whether he would want him to do a thin "scalpel job" on Nixon's book. He was always at the service of Kennedy, and he was very proficient.

The benefit of having a trusted friend who was a nonconformist could clearly be seen in the advice Galbraith provided Kennedy on controversial foreign policy issues. In April 1961, a mere two months after Kennedy assumed his presidency, Galbraith argued that push-

ing the war in Korea in 1950 to the Yalu River "ruined the Democrats" in the congressional elections of that year. He then claimed that Dulles got Guatemala back to the conservative camp in 1954 "at the price of losing all South America."

In April 1962, Galbraith warned Kennedy against any military involvement in Vietnam. "We are backing a weak and, on the record, ineffectual government." Blasting the mediocre performance of the State Department was a habit. In July 1963, for example, Galbraith said that "the simple truth is that the Department's handling of this part of the world is incompetent in an extremely self-satisfied way." He then tells Kennedy that "there should be no mystery as to why we are doing poorly on foreign policy. The major reason is poor leadership."

The trouble is - as we saw in Bill Bundy's exhaustive analysis of Nixon-Kissinger foreign policy - that assertive leadership without the professional scrutiny of the Department could also produce disasters. This is not to imply that Galbraith was necessarily wrong in his harsh judgment of Phil Talbot's performance. Talbot, incidentally, was the assistant secretary also responsible for the Middle East. In Galbraith's book he is depicted as amiable and well intentioned, "but he is no good." He was frightened of his own shadow and politically innocent.

Galbraith was not particularly reverent towards the old Dean Acheson. From India he was not timorous in advising Kennedy that

he had difficulty in appreciating what use the president could derive from him. "He is able... but he will be a source of trouble for he wants the policy that serves his ego not your needs." Galbraith was also not specially in favor of the European Common Market. There he probably reflected a rather short-sighted perspective. He realized that the US "cannot and should not block the EEC," but he was afraid that the European Community without Britain would work against the United States. The fear appears not to have been valid.

An example of the wit in this volume can be found in Galbraith's letter to Kennedy from New Delhi on October 9, 1961, in which he tells the president that during World War Two, when he served under Leon Henderson, the head of the Office of Price Administration, Henderson sent a great deal of memoranda to Roosevelt on price legislation. A little later, at a White House meeting, Roosevelt asked: "Leon, what about the constitutionality of this legislation, and why isn't [the Department of] Labor included?" Henderson said: "Mr. President, I sent you memoranda on both of those points." Roosevelt remarked: "Leon, are you laboring under the impression that I read these memoranda of yours? I can't even lift them."

Galbraith labored under the impression that Kennedy did read his memoranda, and he was probably right in assuming so. What's not clear is how often Kennedy endorsed the advice of the oracle from New Delhi.



John Kenneth Galbraith

'Soft' treatment of Gulf War illness

AGAINST ALL ENEMIES: Gulf War Syndrome: The War Between America's Ailing Veterans and Their Government by Seymour M. Hersh. New York: Ballantine. 103pp. \$8.95.

By Thomas D. Williams

Seymour M. Hersh has long been one of the United States' best-known investigative reporters.

He has won many coveted awards, including a 1970 Pulitzer Prize for his expose of the My Lai massacre of Vietnamese villagers.

He delved into the CIA's domestic spying and scrutinized some of the US Army's uglier weapons in his book *Chemical and Biological Warfare: America's Hidden Arsenal*. He reported extensively on Watergate, researched Manuel Noriega's drug trafficking, and wrote *The Price of Power: Kissinger in the Nixon White House*. By the nature of his stories, Hersh has made his share of enemies.

But nothing approached the searing criticism he received last year from other writers, book critics and politicians for *The Dark Side of Camelot*, his acidic expose of president Kennedy and his brother,

Robert, the attorney general.

Now comes Hersh's latest effort, *Against All Enemies*, about the government's mishandling of ill Persian Gulf War veterans. It is part of the Ballantine Publishing Group's Library of Contemporary Thought, a monthly series on topical issues.

This time Hersh has butted into a new round of critics, who offer a surprising critique of a man who has spent much of his life uncovering wrongdoing.

These critics suggest that Hersh, of all people, has gone soft. "Veterans' advocates say Hersh went easy on the nation's top military leaders. It seems inconsistent, they said, for Hersh to bash a dead president, particularly for personal indiscretions, and then give the benefit of the doubt to live military leaders whose official conduct meant life or death for the nation's soldiers."

Hersh's thesis in this book is that Pentagon officials such as Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell acted honorably but failed to understand what sickened US troops. He reasons that the generals just didn't have enough information to know what had happened, so they stuck to outdated Pentagon thinking that sick veterans were either malingerers or stressed out.

Hersh dismisses the idea that he

was gun-shy after being criticized for his treatment of Kennedy.

Hersh vilified JFK in *The Dark Side of Camelot*, describing an irresponsible sex life and corruption while in office. The author detailed various elaborate plots, including the allegation that Kennedy stole the 1960 presidential election with help from mob boss Sam Giancana in Illinois.

But for all that, Hersh noted, the most heated criticism resulted from scandalous material on Kennedy that Hersh had in hand but did not publish.

Against the advice of others, he was planning to publish documents of questionable authenticity - pulling them only after evidence surfaced that proved that the documents had indeed been forged.

Reacting to the criticism, Hersh said: "I can't say I was amused. I didn't like it, but I never went to bed at night stroking my chin, curled up in a fetal position... My job as a reporter is to take something: You get a tip or you get a document, and you jump all over it... If it isn't real, you don't publish it. That's what I did."

"The point is, it is ironic now, a year later, given what's been going on in the media [recently] between CNN and the *Cincinnati Enquirer*

and the *Boston Globe* columnist, when you think about it, I was criticized for not publishing something that wasn't true. They published what was not true."

Hersh bristled when asked about the criticism of *Against All Enemies* and his portrayal of the two US Army generals who ran the Gulf War.

Powell and Schwarzkopf have said they did everything they could to protect their soldiers before, during and after the war. Like current high-ranking Pentagon officials, they argue there is no evidence to show that tens of thousands of US veterans, still sick from a variety of persistent illnesses, were exposed to chemical or biological warfare. They said they fully support the efforts of sick veterans to discover the source of their illnesses and to treat them.

But veterans' advocates say if anyone was responsible for the failures to protect and care for veterans, it had to be these two men: Powell, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the war, and Schwarzkopf, who was commander in chief of Central Command.

"Under Powell and Schwarzkopf's watch, they dropped the ball, and here it is seven years later and [other Pentagon and government officials] are still fumbling the ball," said Paul

Sullivan, director of the National Gulf War Resource Center, representing 51 veterans' groups. Sullivan and Tod Ensign, director of Citizen Soldier, another veterans' advocacy group, have unsuccessfully called for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate government leaders for what they believe is possible criminal activity, including perjury. The officials they want investigated are those responsible for supervising Gulf War operations and their aftermath.

"I think that Hersh's book is a start," said Ensign, "but he does not go far enough in assigning responsibility for the cover-up and the destruction of evidence. He treats in sarcastic terms the allegations of some vets' groups that the [chemical and biological daily war] logs were destroyed on orders from the high command."

Thomas Donnelly, the South Windsor, Conn., father of a sick Gulf War veteran, Air Force Maj. Michael Donnelly, said he believes that Hersh was lenient with the two generals for fear of cutting off government sources friendly to them. Michael Donnelly and his sister, Denise Donnelly, have written their own book on Michael's life and wartime experiences, *Falcon's Cry: A Gulf War Memoir* (Praeger, \$27.95, due out Oct. 30).

Hersh said: "The fact that nobody [in the Pentagon] knew nothing [sic] is more frightening to me than the suggestion that everyone was brilliantly informed and covered it up." Hersh gave Thomas Donnelly credit for "nagging him into doing the book."

"While on the road with my Kennedy book," said Hersh, "I got these calls from Tom Donnelly. I heard something in his voice I hadn't heard since Vietnam: radicalization... frustration."

Hersh's harshest criticism of Powell and Schwarzkopf was that,

after resigning, they did not help the soldiers solve the mystery of their illnesses.

Sullivan praised Hersh's book, saying it pointed out that military leaders, including Powell and Schwarzkopf, "didn't fulfill their moral obligation" to find out what made the troops sick.

For his next book, Hersh said, he may research another fascinating US intelligence failure: the belated discovery of the nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan that came to a head this year.

(The Hartford Courant)

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. Special Delivery by Danielle Steel. Dell. Corgi.
2. The Mark of Cain by Ram Oren. Keshet.
3. Angel of Darkness by Caleb Carr. Ballantine, Warner.
4. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. Touchstone.
5. The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy. Flamingo.
6. Song of Troy by Colleen McCullough. Orion.
7. The Matarese Countdown by Robert Ludlum. HarperCollins, Bantam.
8. Timequake by Kurt Vonnegut. Berkeley, Vintage.
9. Fifth Mountain by Paolo Coelho. HarperCollins.
10. Color of Water by James McBride. Riverhead.

BOOK BYTES

"The origins of the Great Writers' Strike of 1998 were simple enough," writes columnist William Boot of *The Bookeller*. It all began when Joan Smith was approached by Hamish Hamilton to write a book. She threw herself into the project. However, when she found out that HH was offering her a measly \$5,000 advance, she withdrew, went public with her huff, and sent the company a bill for the work she had already done. The publishers refused to pay her bill on the grounds that the project was purely speculative, no commitment on either side, etc. So Smith called a total strike for June 15. All writers were to cease writing for one day. "Not only would they not write," says Boot, "they would refuse to behave like writers, too. There was to be no hovering in bookshops rearranging the stock and asking for 'that frightfully interesting new novel, you must have heard of it' no writing letters to newspapers and, most controversial of all, no bitching about publishers."

The writers' day of inaction, however, went largely unnoticed, because of the World Cup and an underground strike in London. Yet some good came of it for Joan Smith. The marketing departments of several other publishers noticed her new-found celebrity status, and made her handsome five-figure offers. Boot sums up the Great Writers' Strike with a clarification: "The strike was great; not all the writers were."

BOOKS-ON-LAW (BOL) is a new legal book review internet site at www.jurist.law.pitt.edu. A nonprofit website of the University of Pittsburgh Law School's forum, Jurist, BOL offers eight to 10 new reviews of legal books every month by eminent professors and sitting judges, plus listings of current law

titles by subject. The site recently interviewed Edward Lazarus, author of a controversial expose entitled *Closed Chamber: The First Eyewitness Account of the Epic Struggles Inside the Supreme Court* (Times Books). Ronald Collins, co-editor of *BOL*, says the reviews have "no footnotes and are not too technical. Lay readers should be comfortable."

ELEVEN of Donald Spoto's 16 books have been biographies. One his most recent books, *Notorious: The Life of Ingrid Bergman* (HarperCollins), actually began in 1975 when he interviewed Bergman for his first book, *The Art of Alfred Hitchcock*. His career as biographer was unplanned. While working towards a PhD in theology at New York's Fordham University, he was doing some nonacademic writing on the side, and wrote an analysis of Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, his favorite film. "The editor was satisfied with six pages. I was not."

Spoto, 57, who believes that a biography has to "leap off the page," concludes every interview by asking, "Can you think of other people I should speak to?" Putting his readers into his subject's inner life is Spoto's aim. His books build personalities by anecdote. For instance, when David Selznick objected to Ingrid Bergman's name as too German sounding, she replied, "I like it, and if I fail in America, I can go back to Sweden and still be Ingrid Bergman."

THE NATIONAL Poetry Foundation, founded by the University of Maine in 1971, publishes a wide range of poetry from the antisemitic Ezra Pound to a new, definitive edition of verse by the Jewish scholar Louis Ginzberg, father of Allen Ginsberg. The NPL is partly endowed by Maine-based horror writer Stephen King.

David Brauner

The New York Times BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. Rainbow Six by Tom Clancy. (Putnam \$27.95.) John Clark, leading an international task force, investigates terrorist incidents in Europe.
2. Point of Origin by Patricia Cornwell. (Putnam \$25.95.) Dr. Kay Scarpetta battles an old enemy, a serial killer who has escaped.
3. I Know This Much Is True by Willy Lurie. (Random House \$27.95.) A troubled man must care for his schizophrenic identical twin and face the nightmares of their family.
4. Summer Sisters by Judy Blume. (Delacorte \$21.95.) Two young women from very different backgrounds come of age together on Martha's Vineyard.
5. The First Eagle by Tony Williamson. (HarperCollins \$25.) Two NYPD policemen pursue a mysterious killer - a plague or a person?
6. Message in a Bottle by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner \$20.) After finding a seashore bottle containing an enigmatic letter, a divorced woman encounters love.
7. Bridget Jones's Diary by Helen Fielding. (Viking \$22.95.) A year in the life of a thirty-something female.
8. A Night Without Armor by Jewel Kitcher. (HarperCollins \$15.) The singer-songwriter's poems contemplate love, family, Alaska and life on the road.
9. Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden. (Knopf \$25.) The life of a young woman growing up in Kyoto who has to reinvent herself after World War II begins.
10. A Widow for One Year by John Irving. (Random House \$27.95.) Three looks at the complex emotional life of a writer and single mother.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95.) A sports writer tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor, who was near death's door.
2. A Pirate Looks at Fifty by Jimmy Buffett. (Random House \$24.95.) While traveling to the Amazon, the singer-songwriter reflects on his half-century of life.
3. A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson. (Broadway \$25.) A journalist finds beauty and humor while hiking the Appalachian trail.
4. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American writer recalls his childhood.
5. The Millionaire Next Door by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22.) The lives of wealthy Americans disclose that they have seven characteristics in common.
6. A Monk Swimming by Malcolm McCourt. (Hyperion \$23.95.) The writer and actor (and brother of Frank McCourt) recalls his life in America and Ireland.
7. Citizen Soldiers by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Simon & Schuster \$27.50.) The US Army, from Normandy to the Battle to Germany's surrender.
8. Titan by Ron Chernow. (Random House \$30.) The life of John D. Rockefeller Sr.
9. We Are Our Mothers' Daughters by Cokie Roberts. (Narrow \$19.95.) The television news anchor's reflections on women in politics and business and as mothers, wives, sisters and friends.
10. The Gifts of the Jews by Thomas Cahill. (Bantam/Doubleday \$23.50.) What Western civilization owes an ancient tribe.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Rebecca Wells. (Harper Perennial \$13.50.) Three generations of Southern women.
2. Rising Tides by Nora Roberts. (Love \$7.50.) Returning to his home on the Maryland shore, a man finds a new love.
3. The Best Laid Plans by Sidney Sheldon. (Warner \$7.99.) The relationship between a powerful-hungry governor and a beautiful woman determined to wreak revenge.
4. The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner Vision \$5.99.) A WWII veteran meets an old flame who is about to be married.
5. Petals on the River by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss. (Avon \$8.99.) An Englishwoman finds love with a widower in 18th-century Virginia.
6. She's Come Undone by Wally Lamb. (Pocket \$7.99.) A woman's harrowing progress from youth to middle age.
7. Unnatural Exposure by Patricia Cornwell. (Berkeley \$7.99.) Dr. Kay Scarpetta contends with a killer who uses a smallpox-like virus and cyberspace tricks.
8. The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy. (Harper Perennial \$13.) Death and secrets haunt a once-prosperous family in India.
9. Detective by Arthur Hailey. (Berkeley \$7.99.) A serial killer's confession leads a Miami cop to investigate political figures.
10. The Matarese Connection by Robert Ludlum. (Bantam \$7.99.) A CIA officer struggles to thwart the return of an international cabal.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger. (Harper Paperbacks \$6.99.) The story of the nor'easter of 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.
2. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$7.99.) A journalist's account of his ascent on Mt. Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
3. Under the Tuscan Sun by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of life in the Italian countryside.
4. Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) A young man's obsession with the wilderness.
5. The Climb by Anatoli Boukreev and G. Weston Dewalt. (St. Martin's \$9.99.) Another account of the 1996 Mt. Everest disaster.
6. The Color of Water by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother in a Brooklyn housing project.
7. A Child Called "It" by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95.) How a man survived his mother's abuse.
8. Brain Droppings by George Carlin. (Hyperion \$10.95.) Comments on life and the ways of the world by the stand-up comedian.
9. Personal History by Katherine Graham. (Vintage \$15.) The autobiography of the former publisher of *The Washington Post*.
10. A Civil Action by Jonathan Hart. (Vintage \$13.) A lawsuit against industrial polluters.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
2. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life more and contribute to the world we live in.
3. Protein Power by Michael R. Eades. (Bantam \$6.50.) Two physicians offer a protein-rich, low-carbohydrate plan for losing weight.
4. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff With Your Family by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$11.95.) How to improve one's family life.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. Sugar Busters by H. Leighton Steward et al. (Ballantine \$22.) A diet designed for losing weight, increasing energy and combatting disease.
2. The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom by Suze Orman. (Crown \$23.) Practical and spiritual steps for managing your money.
3. In the Meantime by Iyanla Vanzant. (Simon & Schuster \$23.) Ways to find what you truly need, particularly "the love that you want."
4. Mars are from Mars, Women are from Venus by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25.) Improving communication and relationships.

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When will they ever learn?

It is now more than two months since the collapse of the gymnasium roof at Beersheba's Comprehensive High School No. 6 took the lives of two 13-year-old pupils, Lior Caballo and Shlomi Toledo, while injuring a third. The collapse was apparently caused by systematic failure in construction work, as tremendous amounts of cement were dumped on the roof in unsupervised renovation work done without a license, inspection, or coordination between the contractor and the city's safety committee.

The senseless deaths sent shock waves through a number of official bodies, including the police, the District Attorney's Office, and the Education Ministry. The Knesset Education Committee passed resolutions calling on the Education Ministry to supervise the implementation of safety procedures and immediately carry out a survey of the structural conditions of educational institutions.

Only a week later, Amelia Cohen, a nine-year-old pupil in Jerusalem, fell to her death from an unprotected second-story school window. Again the same parade of official investigating bodies swung into action, including the police, the municipal education department, and a special committee appointed by the education minister. Amelia's father, Abraham Cohen, broke down while shouting at members of the Knesset Education Committee as he recounted how he had warned of the need to replace the window bars in Amelia's classroom, which had been removed during renovations for 10 months. After completing its investigation, the Jerusalem police recommended indicting the contractors, the director of the ministry's safety department, and the assistant director-general in the Jerusalem Municipal Education Authority. The police report found that the latter had not instructed his workers to carry out an inspection of the schools and he did not appoint someone to be responsible for safety when he was advised to do so. When he finally did make such an appointment, the person was not suitable for the job. In response, the Education Ministry committee recommended clarifying safety regulations and dividing responsibilities among safety personnel.

Lior Caballo, Shlomi Toledo and Amelia Cohen cannot be brought back to life. But one would expect that the Education Ministry and other official bodies, given the summer tragedies, would by now have made a supreme effort at least to ensure that potential future calamities in schools due to shoddy inspections

and negligence will be prevented. After all, the new school year is just around the corner.

Instead of reports about the successful results of a sweeping "safety first" campaign of school building inspections, spurred on by officials shocked by the deaths of children in schools, the media this week cited a statistic indicating that about 100 schools do not meet safety standards. Shmuel Abuav, head of the education committee of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, charged that the government is not investing enough in maintaining school buildings. The ULAI is about to conduct its own comprehensive investigation into school-building safety, but the survey is expected to take five months. Only after its findings are reported will repair work, perhaps, be started to neutralize dangers that have been identified. In the meanwhile, parents are expected to routinely send their children to schools throughout the country.

Such a state of affairs is completely intolerable. There is no substitute for the public school system. No modern country exists without one. Parents send their children to the local school trusting the state, for at least a few hours every day, to look after their young ones; protect them, teach them, and enable them to become adults ready for the future. If the state cannot even give parents a guarantee that the lives of their children will be guarded against negligence in structural work in educational institutions, that trust will be breached, and the schools will not be able to continue to operate.

There is only one acceptable course of action that can be taken. All of the responsible bodies, including the Education Ministry and the local authorities, need to immediately join in a major campaign of school-safety inspection, and where necessary, repair work. The campaign needs to be thorough, including in it every educational institution, from north to south. It needs to be done rapidly, even if this involves temporarily enlarging safety-inspection staffs. The results of the survey must be made public, and parents and students in schools requiring repair work need to be fully informed about what is to be done and which areas in the schools will be off-limits until repairs can be effected. Norms with respect to continuing safety inspections must be stiffened at every level of responsibility, from the individual school to district superintendents to the staff of the Education Ministry. This cannot wait. When lives might be at stake – and as we tragically learned earlier this summer, this is indeed the case – no excuses can be accepted.



OLEG 98

Fasten your seatbelts

DAVID KIMCHE

Will he? Won't he? It is the great guessing game of this summer. Will the prime minister keep the peace process on track by reaching agreement on a "second" withdrawal? There are guesses galore, but nobody knows for sure.

However, a great deal has come to light over the past weeks with regard to the political game being played out in Jerusalem. For one thing, we now know that the name of the game is not, as we had been led to believe, security, but rather the continued well-being of settlements.

How else can we construe the willingness of the government to give in to the demand of settlers and the National Religious Party that withdrawal should be from the Judean desert rather than from the areas with settlements?

Ask Arik Sharon. He will tell you that from the security point of view the land designated by the government in the Judean desert for withdrawal is far more important than the thickly populated areas further north, where the settlements are.

Defense Minister Mordechai will say the same thing, perhaps not publicly. So will the entire defense establishment.

If any withdrawal is to take place, and if security considerations prevail, then clearly that withdrawal should not be from the Judean desert. By ignoring this fact, the prime minister can hardly be taken seriously when he argues that withdrawal of the scope that Americans had demanded would endanger Israel's security.

Moreover, logic dictates that it would be preferable to distance ourselves from territory populated by Palestinians than from virtually empty land, and thus minimize points of friction and tension between the Palestinians and ourselves.

All this goes to show that in a most crucial aspect of policy making – which land to give up – the government has preferred to act according to the dictate of the settlers' movement rather than to consider matter of security.

The question, therefore, is not only "Will he or won't he?" but rather "Will he do what?" Will the quiet of this Indian summer belies the political storm that is gathering on the horizon

Netanyahu give in to settlers, either at the cost of security considerations, or by not doing anything at all, which is what the settlers prefer, especially if that would mean the end of the peace process? Or will he heed his military and security experts who have warned repeatedly that no movement at all will almost certainly lead to a renewal of violence.

THE WITHDRAWAL issue, however, goes beyond questions of security and the danger of renewed violence. At stake is whether the peace process will remain alive, whether we can live in peace with our neighbors. Can we have security if the peace process is buried, and if we become a pariah state in the world, a political outcast? We must not forget that the clock is ticking, that every day brings us nearer to the High Noon encounter of May 1999, the cut-off date of the Oslo Accords when the Palestinians will presumably declare an inde-

pendent state if there is no movement in the peace process.

We should not beguile ourselves: If that happens, the countries of the world will overwhelmingly recognize the new state and offer their support for it, and will react sharply if we move against it.

There are, therefore, very potent reasons for Netanyahu to ignore the pleas of the settlers and extreme right-wing and to act to move the peace process forward before May 1999. Israel stands to gain more from further negotiations than from violent confrontation, with the world against us.

There is, however, another aspect which will be the deciding factor for the prime minister: He fears his government will be toppled by the right wing if he reaches agreement with the Palestinians.

It was this fear that led to the series of secret meetings he held in the Mossad compound with Ehud Barak. For he – and we – are approaching a time for decisions.

Withdrawal agreement, national government, new elections, realignment of parties, they are all on the agenda. Netanyahu has to decide whether to go ahead with the withdrawal agreement; Barak has to decide whether he wants to give him the opposition's support if he does it. They both have to decide whether to change the political map by agreeing to a national unity government after the withdrawal takes place, or, alternatively, head for elections.

As we swelter in the August heat, the quiet of this Indian summer belies the political storm that is gathering on the horizon. Fasten your seatbelts, everyone, for we are in for a very rough ride. The coming months will decide what sort of country we will be living in for the next generation. We can only hope and pray that the decisions will be the right ones.

Orthodox-bashing

JULIUS BERMAN

The war of words in the Jewish community is nothing new. But recently we appear to be experiencing a novel form of intramural dispute that has taken a nasty, unprecedented turn.

The leadership of the Reform and Conservative movements in the US, apparently dissatisfied with just debating substantive issues, is now resorting to criticism of Orthodox practice which can be accurately described only as Orthodox-bashing for its own sake.

It all started with a decision in late 1995, when the High Court of Justice, in the face of accepted practice dating to the creation of the state, ruled that requiring conversions to Judaism within Israel to be sanctioned by the Chief Rabbi had no statutory basis.

Naturally, the religious parties responded by trying to pass legislation that would anchor the prevailing situation in law. Then, after the 1996 elections, they conditioned their joining the coalition on support for this law.

That's when the avalanche began: an eruption of anti-Orthodox vituperation by Reform and Conservative leaders. The Orthodox were accused of being extremist, radical, fanatic, disgraceful, medieval, benighted, corrupt and cultic.

At the 1997 convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, the newly elected leader of the Reform movement in America, attacked the Chief Rabbi as "extremist and radical and fanatic... a medieval chief rabbinat that is a disgrace to the Jewish people and its religion."

To that end, he called on Reform and Conservative Jews, as well as the federations, to stop funding Orthodox organizations and institutions that disagree with him on the issue of pluralism. Even the *New York Times*, in an editorial on April 20, 1997, scolded him for his "intemperate" remarks.

It goes without saying that Schorsch's campaign to enmesh the local federations in Israel's "religious pluralism" battles could destroy the very fabric of unity that we in the American Jewish community have painstakingly woven over the years – a unity which has enabled us to work together on matters of common concern without sacrificing our respective core religious principles. America's federation system is a cardinal reflection of this spirit.

Moreover, to "hold hostage" the hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries of federation campaigns here in Israel and throughout the world would take needed succor from the frail, the elderly, Holocaust survivors, the homeless, victims of domestic violence and the mentally and physically handicapped.

Simply put, that would be patently immoral and an affront to the very essence of the Jewish tradition of *tzedaka* (charity).

AS WRONG-headed as the campaign was, at least there was a "method to the madness." The non-Orthodox leadership obviously concluded that the threat to the success of the federation campaigns would spur federation leaders to join the battle against the conversion bill.

Now we appear to have something new: attacking the Orthodox for no purpose other than the attack itself.

Take, for example, a recent installment of Schorsch's weekly Torah commentary over the Internet. Using as his point of departure the refusal of five

Orthodox students at Yale to live in co-ed dorms, he fires salvos at many Orthodox practices such as glatt kosher, the "higher mitzvas separating men and women in the synagogue," the "ever-more products at Passover with special certification" and so forth.

Labelling as "ultra-Orthodox" the "mindset" of the Yale students who want the benefits of a Yale education without sacrificing their religious principles, he accuses them of taking actions that are reflective of what is happening in Orthodoxy today.

Has American morality descended to such a state that refusal to live in a co-ed dorm constitutes, as Schorsch puts it, a "plea for self-segregation, as if gentiles and non-Orthodox Jews were an unremedial source of contamination?"

Not to be outdone, Yoffie recently devoted an entire article to the "new challenge" facing American Jewry "as we approach the millennium: the emergence of ghetto Judaism in American life."

And what does he cite as an example of ghetto Judaism? Living in Williamsburg, Boro Park, or Bnei Brak? Not at all – it's living on the hallowed campus of Yale, but insisting on maintaining an elemental level of modesty by refusing residence in a co-ed dorm.

This new chapter in the campaign against Orthodoxy has none of the supposedly justifying features that exist in the battle over the conversion bill – which at least relates to the effort by non-Orthodox streams to gain legitimacy in Israel.

The current attacks relate solely to Orthodoxy in America and can have no purpose – or effect – other than to alienate the Orthodox and non-Orthodox streams in the US even further from each other.

The writer is past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and honorary president of the Orthodox Union.

Your finest hour

HELEN SCHARY MOTRO

You always seemed a little unorthodox to us; that was your appeal: You and Rabin stealing a quick smoke like two schoolboys, or tying your neckties in the White House as if you were getting ready for a prom. The king and the prime minister – you two became the decade's odd couple. Then, at Rabin's funeral you filled the place of the brother the slain prime minister did not have.

You've been king 46 years this month. From the beginning you were like a cousin for whom our family had a secret soft spot, even though he wasn't always accepted into its mainstream.

Even in the Six Day War, seeing your grave eyes on television and knowing you were on the other side, Israel's supporters couldn't help but like you.

CANCER'S black power always compels us to sit up straight and take stock. So the news of your lymphoma this summer puts you again in our consciousness, forcing assessment.

Visiting Amman on the heels of the 1995 peace treaty, I met your photo in every café; the stalls in Petra displayed carpets with your smiling image woven in. Back then, the Jordanians welcomed the Israelis, who lined up at border crossings by the tens of thousands eager to see what really lay beyond the Jordan River.

So much has changed since those heady days when peace was number one on the agenda; so much is now in jeopardy. In mid-March 1997 a group of Israeli junior high school students on an outing wandered over the border onto Jordanian land, and were shot at by a demented Jordanian soldier. Seven girls died.

That was after the mood had shifted: after the assassination, after the Israeli election.

An open letter to King Hussein

In a heavy March rain, you flew to Israel to pay condolence. Your motorcade made its way down highways which security police had cleared of traffic, toward an obscure provincial town never before considered newsworthy. I had been in one of those cars cleared off the highway, and turned off to wait in the grocery store of a run-down farm village.

Inside I watched a television set broadcasting to all the world what some in your country viewed as your journey to Canossa. You knelt on stone floors, embracing bereaved fathers, holding the hands of collapsing mothers, using words only a king would not be embarrassed to utter: "Your loss is mine. I will be honored if you consider me part of your family now."

Parents proffered to you photographs that had been meant for school yearbooks, photographs that had become black-bordered memorials overnight. And seven times over, in seven modest houses of mourning, you put on your reading glasses and studied the children's images, one by one. The scene was a surrealistic pastiche out of some medieval morality tale: Good king, comforts bereaved subjects.

But this being the Middle East there had to be irony afoot. You weren't comforting your subjects: you were commander-in-chief of their children's murderer.

By crouching in these simple houses full of complex griefs you accepted some degree of shame onto your own shoulders. That your symbolic acceptance was almost unmentionable among your own countrymen made your courage more outstanding. It was your finest hour.

A little over 20 centuries ago on a mid-March morning another leader was exhorted not to venture forth into danger. If you had warnings for the Ides of March – or second thoughts – you ignored them as did Caesar.

Your motorcade may have been bullet-proof, but your cause was all too vulnerable. And you knew better than anyone that assassination is no stranger to the Middle East. The grandfather from whom you inherited your throne was gunned down while himself maneuvering for peace half a century ago.

You were lucky on that day, the day you confirmed your majesty. Now nature has singled you out for its private battle.

Confronting his own wife's cancer, the Sloane-Kettering oncologist Sidney Winaver discovered that "the miracle you hope for is not always the miracle you receive."

Those familiar with the lands on both sides of the Jordan River know that events here may turn to be the miraculous opposite of what logic leads us to expect. So I'm watching the heavens for which miracle will be granted to you – and for which miracle will be bestowed upon our stricken region.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A WASTE OF OUR MONEY

Sir, – I would like to add my dismay and disgust at the treatment meted out in the case of Shlomo Feldman.

If the police dispatcher had broadcast the license number and description of the thieves' car, and if there had been any police cars in the area, the situation could have been resolved in a very short time. But in place of good police procedures, the top police officials again give excuses why crime is on the rise.

It still remains, that the best deterrence against criminal activity is the high profile presence of police on the streets 24 hours a day.

Trying to fight 20th century crime with 19th century procedures is a gross waste of manpower, and taxpayers' shekels.

STAN R. HAYES

Nazareth Illit.

SMOKING VIOLATIONS.

Sir, – It was stated in your paper (August 12) that Dr. Yoram Blachar, chairman of the Israel Medical Association, sent a letter to the Speaker of the Knesset, Dan Tichon, castigating smoking in the Knesset building.

I wonder if Dr. Blachar has paid a visit to a medical center in Israel recently? Doctors, nurses and other members of the medical staff seem to have never heard of the bill passed to restrict smoking.

They blatantly smoke everywhere with no consideration for patients and others in the same surroundings. Surely, they should be the ones setting an example to this very serious problem, not only by not smoking but also by not violating the law?

Such a pity (like most others) that this law is abused by the public.

ORA LESHEM

Tel Aviv.

ORR SPOKE THE TRUTH

Sir, – What a terrible mistake the Labor Party has made in condemning Ori Orr, and exhibiting so blatantly the racist tendencies of his party.

Ori Orr was not wrong. What he said is what every sensible, thinking individual must agree with. All he did was accuse certain people of extravagant sensitivity.

From the psychological aspect that characteristic is damaging to the individual concerned, and restricts his or her acceptance into any society as mixed and multicultural as ours. It undoubtedly prevents that society from openly and freely making that person a desired part of it.

Any society must be based upon mutual trust and understanding. If it cannot know the innermost needs and desires of a section or individuals of which it is made up, the a situation arises of mistrust, misunderstanding and eventually rejection and ejection.

MK Orr would never have made his statement had he been discussing, say, Shlomo Hillel or Yitzhak Navon, or dozens of others with similar roots. He discussed the failings of people who have achieved major success in their own lives, and for themselves. What they have done to improve the lives of others, except by nepotism and favoritism, has yet to be revealed.

Messrs. Hillel and Navon, and their children, are not merely fully integrated into Israeli life; they have contributed immensely to the safety, well-being and comfort of people from all walks of life.

MK David Levy or MK Shlomo Ben-Ami may be, and probably are, upright gentlemen and, perhaps, well-meaning. But it has yet

to be shown they have contributed to anything but their own milieus.

One could take Lova Eliav as an example of what a politician can achieve by self-sacrifice, by doing unto others as we would wish they would do unto us.

He, too, is a member of the Labor Party. Another shining example, although not a left-wing politician, was the late, great Menachem Begin. A man who sought nothing for himself, but everything for his people, his nation.

Orr, too, sought nothing for himself in criticizing public figures like Ben-Ami and David Levy. What he wants is to make them realize the real duty of a public figure. Be open! speak clearly! Do not complain, for those who are hearing you have much more to complain about!

Clever phrases do not bring food in the table of those in need of food, nor work to the unemployed, nor health to the sick. That is what the Shlomo Hillels, the Yitzhak Navons, Lova Eliavs and Menachem Begins understood.

Those who only seek fame for themselves, whilst ignoring the pain of others, are not worthy of the fortune they have attained. That is the gist of what Orr tried to convey.

Ehud Barak has, once again, missed the point and a great opportunity to display real leadership. Instead of panicking and joining the chorus of condemnations, which was and is cheap demagoguery, he should have quietly and privately discussed the matter with Orr, and then made his decision. His haste to join the mob may have caused more harm to Labor than Ori Orr ever could.

STANLEY BROZA

Tel Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On August 20, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that on Friday afternoon the Tel Aviv Sabbath Observers Society gathered outside the Great Synagogue in Allenby Road and closed the street to all wheeled traffic. The police dispersed the zealots, arresting seven persons. One British and

one Tel Aviv policeman were posted at the synagogue.

50 years ago: On August 20, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that Israel Air Force planes unloaded supplies and picked up wounded soldiers more than 30 km. behind the Egyptian front lines in the Negev – an answer to

Egyptian efforts to besiege and throttle the Jewish settlements there.

The UN Security Council warned that it was the only body which could end the imposed truce which it explained "was not an interlude in the fighting."

Alexander Zvielli

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Weekender

Hollywood's pressure cooker

Leading directors and writers get together to discuss the future of action movies

By AMY WALLACE

The setting was elegant, which was odd, considering the guest list. Between them, the three directors, one writer and one writer-director were better known for big explosions than for elegant table manners. Yet there they were in West Los Angeles the other day, circling a huge table at the Four Seasons Hotel's garden restaurant, sipping from crystal goblets and talking about the cinema of mass destruction.

Directors Michael Bay, John McTiernan and F. Gary Gray, writer Steven E. de Souza and writer-director Jonathan Mostow had gathered at the Los Angeles Times's invitation to discuss the future of a movie genre that has taken some hits lately: action. To hear critics talk, most action movies have become predictable, exploitative—even boring. To find out why, *The Times* sprang for lunch, and the five participants didn't let it down.

A few in the group had already met—McTiernan and de Souza worked together to make one of the archetypes of action film, *Die Hard*. Bay and Gray occupied neighboring editing rooms on their most recent projects.

Gray's *The Negotiator* was opening the day of the lunch, so—a bit nervous about the box-office take—was a green salad and not much else. But opening-day jitters didn't keep him from speaking his mind.

De Souza: "Action movies in general are in a creative rut right now. And one of the principal problems is how they are made. The first thing that happens is a window. The window is a window. We need a movie for Christmas 1999. Or this actor has a window. The first element of this 'work of art' is a window of time. The next thing is, 'There's a director we have a deal with. Let's lay him on this, whether or not he's right for the material.' So what happens is, they decide to make the movie because there's a window, there's a star, there's a director."

McTiernan: "Wait, wait, there's one more thing. A 'tent-pole' movie like this is very often a decision for the corporation involved. So they will not make a commitment early. They will make it at the last possible minute. (He nods at Bay.) We've both made movies in nine months door-to-door [from green light to premiere]."

De Souza: "But notice no one mentioned script. These pictures start down the railroad tracks before there's a script. Years ago, the script would be first."

Bay: "Now, things don't get serious until you get an actor. When you [the studios] start paying money on writers."

De Souza: "So the script is the last thing that people focus on."

Gray: "I was lucky on *The Negotiator*. I read the script and loved it. I got my first-choice actors. I had the time to do it. But the business part of it is the business part of it. It seems like there's more emphasis put on statistics and research as opposed to how can we challenge ourselves to make original material. Let's broaden the audience. Let's not just feed who we think is already our demographic."

Mostow: "There are two issues: the movies themselves and then



Director John ("Die Hard") McTiernan, 47, talks about a movie genre that has recently come in for a lot of criticism.

(Anacleto Rapping)

how they're marketed. There are a lot of action movies that are pretty good, but they are sold in such a way that the public, who by now have gotten incredibly savvy, doesn't give the movie a chance. And certainly the critics don't. The people who are doing the marketing... they're reading the tracking reports and they're cutting ads that they think sell to the under-25 male demographic. And then your movie gets tagged as uninteresting dumb action. I saw this happen on a movie I did last year [*Breakdown* with Kurt Russell]. I was looking at commercials for it and saying, 'I don't want to see that movie.'"

De Souza: "In [my next] picture [*Knock Off*], Jean-Claude Van Damme has a fight with 48 guys at once. It's the most phenomenal action scene I've seen. But the coming attraction looks like every other action movie. I said, 'There's some real weird, offbeat stuff in this picture.' And [the marketing people] said, 'Yes, but we don't want to put it in the trailer. We think that would alienate the audience.'"

Mostow: "Great ideas come at a natural rate. Whether you're a writer or a director, you only get so many great ideas in a year or in a lifetime, and the quantity of great movies is roughly the same year to year. The sense that movies have gotten in a rut is, I think, principally due to the fact that they're sold that way."

Bay: "I want to know what this 'rut' is. The movie business is at an all-time high right now."

De Souza: "Part of it is people following the pack. Part of it is the research. It's been almost 15 years that I've been doing feature films, and in that time the world market has also become a factor. Action movies were the first ones to play overseas because you don't need the subtitles."

"It's not Noel Coward. And for a while, as new markets opened up,

you could not lose money on an action movie. I have been in creative meetings with people who have never done an action picture, but they want to now because they know it'll make money overseas. These people parrot back to you what has to be in this movie. They say the hero has to be a disgraced Green Beret or a cop who does things his own way."

Bay: "Who's divorced?"

McTiernan: "With a hippopotamus."

De Souza: "I had the good fortune to get aboard a couple of trains like *Die Hard* and *48 HRS*—pictures that were viewed as archetypes of the buddy-cop action movie and the claustrophobic pressure cooker. But then people want that again. I was sent a script recently to rewrite and direct. They said, 'We think you'll like this. It's sort of like *Die Hard* in a building.' (The original *Die Hard* was set in a skyscraper.)"

Bay: "That's how they describe everything: *Die Hard* on *The Rock*!"

De Souza: "I can't constantly write on carbon paper. So I'm doing quirky, offbeat material in between these giant action movies that I can't refuse because I have a mortgage and alimony."

Bay: "But look who's making the money right now. Action movies are. *Saving Private Ryan*, any way you cut it, it's still an action movie. You've got five action set pieces, you're going on a mission with these guys. The movie comes to life when the audience is getting that human emotion of, 'Oh, my God! I'm stuck in the fray.'"

Gray: "But that's different. You feel human emotion in that film, whereas in most action films that are released you barely scrape the surface of any emotion besides thrills."

Bay: "I'm just saying action movies are making money right now."

Gray: "Yeah, but are we talking money or are we talking creativity?"

De Souza: "There is a list of things that routinely go into action movies now. Hostages, terrorists, car chases, fistfights, a scene in a bar with strippers and buddy cops—one black, one white. Do you know how much crap he got (De Souza points at Bay) for having two black guys in a cop movie? You can't do that. One has to be white."

Bay: "You're totally right. I had \$9 million to make *Bad Boys* with Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. It was my first movie and [the studio] didn't believe in it because 'black guys don't travel. They don't work [with audiences] in Europe.' That's what I was told."

De Souza: "I was fortunate on *Knock Off* because the director was from Hong Kong and the producer was from Israel, so neither one of them knew that you can't have a black leading lady, thank God. [Lela Rochon] was great, so she got the part."

Mostow: "If there are only five great scripts a year, and the major studios put out 200 [films], what are they going to do? Action movies become a very easy answer because you can fill them up with certain genre elements and disguise the fact that you don't really have a great central idea."

De Souza: "The audience has seen everything now. There's a database in the brain of every viewer, and they recognize very quickly. 'This is a buddy cop movie. Where are the drug dealers? All the clichés, they recognize. Jonathan's *Breakdown* was fabulous in that it was so terrific to say, 'Why are the villains doing what they're doing? Because they're greedy, sick bastards and they'll kill somebody to make \$1,000.' It wasn't that they were going to take over the world from their secret satellite base on the moon."

Gray: "I want to my agency the other day talking about scripts. I said, 'What do you guys have?' We sat down at a big table like this and they all started pitching. There must have been 12 ideas. I said, 'Guys, you should listen to yourselves. It's cops-do-this, cops-do-that. What's going on here?' It's all cop movies. Cops dejected. Cops trying to prove themselves innocent."

Gray: "A cop that's a vampire."

Bay: "No, I don't get vampire movies."

Gray (to McTiernan): "What do you think? I've respected your work and looked up to you for a long time. Part of me coming here today was to listen to the guys who have been in the trenches with you."

McTiernan (laughing): "It's awful. It's like suddenly I'm the grand old man."

Gray: "No, I just want to hear your thoughts."

McTiernan: "I think we're mostly responsible for what we do ourselves. There are always [jerks] who have distorted notions of what would make a good movie or what would make a lot of money. And it's only our fault if we listen to it.... Are there a lot of derivative films made? Sure."

"But there were always derivative films made. For a little while, the [action genre] elements alone would allow one to turn a profit. But that's not possible anymore. The stars' prices have gone up so much that it not only has to have all those elements, it's gotta be good."

The Times: "And 'good' means story?"

McTiernan: "Not necessarily. Sometimes it's the story. Though there are films that don't have much of a story that are in one way or another interesting or have some lightning and represent something to the audience."

De Souza: "The audience has seen everything now. There's a database in the brain of every viewer, and they recognize very quickly. 'This is a buddy cop movie. Where are the drug dealers? All the clichés, they recognize. Jonathan's *Breakdown* was fabulous in that it was so terrific to say, 'Why are the villains doing what they're doing? Because they're greedy, sick bastards and they'll kill somebody to make \$1,000.' It wasn't that they were going to take over the world from their secret satellite base on the moon." (Los Angeles Times)

An intimate setting for night birds

By SONIE LEMOR

Tel Aviv is full of pretentious pubs and discotheques. But for those who would rather chill out with a cold beer and avoid dealing with the whole business of seeing and being seen, the place to go is Thirty Something.

Located on Ibn Gvirol Street, Thirty Something is an alternative to some of the fancy restaurants that populate the area and is a great weekend hangout for yuppie types. Of course, there is the obligatory doorman scanning the crowd of clientele that is, on the average, in their late thirties.

Though it may appear relatively small from the outside, Thirty Something is actually quite large and boasts two floors which are full from open to close. The entire place is dimly lit and the ambience is intimate and warm. Some of its unpretentious partygoers are actually quite well-known celebrities—one table of boisterous patrons included actor Harel Nof (from the hit television series *Ramat Aviv Gimmet*) and an American film producer.

I came in on a Monday, thinking that it would be relatively quiet, but to my surprise there was no place to sit and it was even difficult to move, since most of the space was taken up by laughing people dancing and singing to Eighties music. The DJ was taking requests for anything—Eighties, samba, and contemporary rock—from anyone able to get close enough to the bar to ask.

The decor is quite simple—just Formica tables and nondescript chairs. The wooden bar is quaint, and in the Hard Rock Cafe tradition Thirty Something also boasts autographed guitars.

As for the menu, it has pastas and sandwiches as well as a breakfast special that is served starting from 4:30 a.m. Nosh-type items that are very good with a cold beer include chili chicken wings and humous with mushrooms. The food is decent and reasonably priced.

This is a fun place to go any day of the week if you want to party without feeling obligated to eat a full meal. Thirty Something is open seven days a week from 8:30 p.m. until at least 7 a.m. for all the late-nighters or early risers.

Thirty Something, 14 Ibn Gvirol Street, Tel Aviv

AFTER HOURS

Verse on my mind

Poet and academic Karen Alkalay Gut talks about her favorite poets

Karen Alkalay Gut is a big woman—sensuous, beautiful, articulate—and an award-winning poet. Born in the UK and raised in the US, Alkalay Gut immigrated from Rochester, New York, in 1972. She is a senior lecturer in the English department of Tel Aviv University, where her courses are "usually concerned with poetry in all its manifestations."

She lives in Ramat Aviv with her engineer husband, Ezra, their four children and two dogs. Her books of poetry include *I/Thou and other War Poems*, *High School Girls* and *Butter Sculptures*. Her latest, published this year in Hebrew, is called *The Love of Clothes and Nakedness* which was one of three finalists in the prestigious Alice Fay di Castiglione competition for poetry in manuscript.

Her awards include the BBC World Service Poetry Award in 1994. Her poetry has been published worldwide and Alkalay Gut has translated many Israeli poets into English, including Yehuda Amichai, Ronny Somekh—with whom she's doing a poetry reading tonight at the British Council in Jerusalem—and Asher Reich. She likes to combine poetry with other arts, and has appeared with pianist Liz Magnes at the Kennedy Center and with the sculptors at the Ein Hod Biennale.

Poetry, she says "is a way of understanding and coping with the world. When it works it is also incredibly beautiful. A great poem fills me with wonder at the possibilities of creation. It gives you that moment of whole and complete recognition, pure pleasure."

"My favorite poets change from day to day, but what I really like is variety. So I decided to pick my current favorites from different categories, and these poets came out today's winners."

1. William Shakespeare

"Shakespeare is not a remote classic to me. In fact, he accompanies me almost everywhere I go. Lines from the sonnets and the plays come up at the most unusual moments: 'Reason not the need,' I quote to my husband from *King Lear* when he asks why I have to buy three pairs of black shoes. But it is more than the understanding of the abuse of power and self-gratification that makes Shakespeare great to me. It's the precision of language that enables the greatness of humanity to emerge."

2. Anne Sexton

"A few years ago, popular American poet Anne Sexton fell into disrepute when a biography described her madness in graphic detail. It wasn't a romantic madness, it was messy and banal. But since it was always her messiness and banality that spoke to me, and her assertion that life was messy and banal, I remained one of the few people who liked her even more. Because I read and liked her



early poems, her careful sonnets expressing her hunger to be normal, proper, and sane. I loved her later poems that tried to follow the order of madness, that tried to understand, to trace life and not impose an order on it."

3. Yitzik Manger

"Yiddish was my first language, and I am sad that I don't live in it more. Yitzik Manger's *Bible Poems* in particular seem to be not only a humanization of sacred texts, but also a very living post-modern commentary on today's life and politics. That supercilious self-righteous 'more sensitive-than-thou' tone that so much poetry has is not really in evidence in the great Yiddish poets, and I think I've learned a lot from them (and have a lot more to learn)."

4. Yehuda Amichai

"When I read a poem by Yehuda Amichai I remember why I first decided to move to Israel. It is not just those descriptions of experiences in everyday life, and the way everything is given additional significance by the place where it occurred. It is also that the language itself embodies all those layers of civilization in a few words, the sacred and profane, the ancient and universal, the unique and specific. Whether he's talking about getting married in the Rabbinate or mourning a friend, he speaks directly to the moral complexity of my personal experience here."

5. Ya'acov Gilad

"When I first heard the words that Ya'acov Gilad wrote for Yehuda Poliker's classic rock album of the second generation, *Dust and Ashes*, I was totally overwhelmed. It was an album that not only explained a vast area of Israel to me, but it also explained a great deal of myself that I had ignored for decades. The song, 'Because,' with its heavy rock beat, gives new meaning to the concept of rebellion in rock music, in the way that it translates the generational anger of American rock into the pain of second-generation guilt. No matter which poets become my favorite next week, Gilad will always have a special place in my heart, because his song emerged from there." —Helen Kaye

Hot tips

By DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

Tel Aviv

All eyes are on the Neveh Ofer Community Center in South Tel Aviv, a small neighborhood with a great big Ethnoscience Festival, lasting four days. The festival started yesterday and continues tonight with *Dances of All Dances*, performed by Liat Dror and Nir Ben-Gal and the neighborhood's very own brood of children, in the auditorium at 6. Following this early event there will be an open stage of ethnic music and a dance group called Divana, from India. This starts in

the courtyard at 7:30, and runs simultaneously with an ethnic food fair.

At 9, Dror and Ben Gal perform the evening's primary performance, *Inta Omri*. The festivities then continue until Saturday night, when the premiere of *Nomades Israel* will be presented, choreographed by Anne-Marie Porras. For details, call (03) 692-7777.

Who can resist the nostalgia of an *Ice Capade*-style show in the summer? Adults shouldn't shy away from the Disney On Ice performance of *Pocahontas*, at the Yad Elihu Sports Stadium. There are two performances today, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Draw or be drawn, to the mellow tunes of Jazz at the Studio tonight. An evening of Jazz and Art involves listening or drawing or both. This interactive event starts at 9 at the Open Studio and features Igor Chodrovski on piano, Oded Goldshmidt on double bass, 24 Cremieux Street, (03) 685-6787.

Feeling funkier? Soul and Gospel night brews, with Elisheva and Shevachia Bnot Yisrael on vocals, at the Apropro Zahala,

starting at 10 p.m. And of course, the music never stops at Camelot. Saturday night, see Gays with original ethnic music starting at 10:30.

But if interactive entertainment is up your alley, try a bit of the enchanted. The talented Twick Brothers give a magic show tonight, replete with daredevil stunts and audience participation at Ramat Amidar in Ramat Gan, at 6.

Theater is concentrated at the center of the city, where Habimah seems to have stolen the show. Tonight, the main stage has a play by Tom Griffin called *The Boys Next Door*, about four unusual men, making their way solo. Starts at 8:30 p.m. Also at 8:30, Matti Seri performs *The Public's Right to Know*, a short performance that appeared in the "Art-Duo" festival earlier this year. Finally, at Bimartef, see Edward Albee's acclaimed *Three Tall Women*, directed by Jack Messinger. At 9 p.m.

If the establishment isn't quite your thing, try a bit of alternative, independent, and very fringe theater tonight. Joseph Sprinzak and

Jean Claude Jones's *Tapeman*, *Maggie and Millie and Mollie and May*, runs tonight at Tzavta 2. The narrative-movement-performance show involves e. e. cummings, Samuel Beckett and other readings in most unusual forms. Starting at 8:30.

The Republic of Colombia is celebrating on its 188th anniversary. The Choir Ensemble of the Colombian University Los Andes, in town for the Zimriya World Festival, joins forces with our home-grown Havaya Choir (Israeli Latin American music) for the Colombian Embassy. At Hapigsa Park in Jaffa, 9 tonight. Call (03) 546-1717 for details.

Jerusalem

Bopping and scating are prime activities in Jerusalem this weekend.

Join the jazz jam at Pargod, for a cool three hours of music starting at 7 p.m. Call (02) 623-1765. Just as this session winds down, the Meir Ben-Michael Quartet picks up the beat at the Bible

Lands Museum, with be-bop and classical jazz in the museum's series. Starts at 9:30 p.m. at 25 Granot St. (02) 561-1765.

The British Council is again home (and garden) to literary culture tonight, with an Evening of Song and Poetry. Poets Karen Alkalay Gut (See "Verse on my mind," right) and Ronny Somekh will read, to the accompaniment of music and songs by Jill Rogoff. This soothing activity takes place in—where else?—the garden of the British Council, starting at 8, at 3 Shimon St.

Call (02) 673-6733.

Looking for slightly less decorum? The Khan Theater is featuring *Babylon*, a modern allegory of the biblical story, with a breakdown of social order and rampant licentiousness. Starts at 8:30.

And Points Beyond

Saturday night finds Ehud Banai teaming up for a promising match with Shlomo Bar's *Habreira Hatviv* at the Caesarea Amphitheater in the National Park, starting at 9:30.

Welcome to Herod's Weekender Temple Mount Travel

Close Encounters By Allan Rabinowitz

At the Ophel Archaeological Garden, just inside the Dung Gate in Jerusalem's Old City, a tremendous amount of construction is going on. When completed, this will be a fascinating and huge complex bordering on the two conjoining walls of Herod's Temple Mount.

Revealing portions of Herod's resplendent Jerusalem, this single site encapsulates the tumultuous life of the city in the last century preceding its destruction by Rome.

We can witness the awesomeness, vision and precision of Herod's engineering. We can sense the pulse and throb near the main entrance of the Temple Mount, where itinerant teachers preached while pilgrims gathered from around Israel and the Roman world to bring offerings and

prayers to God. Here, too, we can visualize, as if it happened yesterday, the methodical dismantling of the temple and city less than a century after Herod's huge projects began.

At the park's entrance you can purchase a diagram of the Temple Mount as it stood two millennia ago.

With Herod on the brain, we'll follow the path running parallel to the Temple Mount's southern wall, past the seventh-century palace of the Moslem Omayyad caliphate, past the spiral stairs descending to a network of fifth-century Byzantine apartments and earlier cisterns, and through the gate in the Ottoman city wall.

There we turn left to reach the wide expanse of stairs leading up to the Temple Mount (basically an immense stone box which Herod built around the original hill where the Temple stood). This is raw history, and for many visitors, Jews and Christians alike, it is the most powerful spot in Jerusalem.

Make sure you stand on the original steps — some are reconstructions — where, three times a year, during the festivals, Jews surged toward the Temple: rich and poor, Sadducee, Pharisee and Essene, local and foreign.

Rabbi Gamliel taught on these steps, and his students included a young man named Saul, who later became Paul. Jesus and his disciples undoubtedly passed this way. And Roman guards were stationed here, often bored, but sometimes taut with the foreboding of riots.

Note that the steps have staggered widths, to encourage focus and control of pace.

To your right, facing the Temple Mount, sit the ritual baths in which people immersed themselves before entering the Hulda Gates.

The gates led into dark tunnels which climbed through the Temple Mount and opened onto the platform of the Temple itself (pilgrims entered through the eastern gate and exited through the western one).

Looking up the steps you can see to the left, where a later perpendicular wall meets the Temple Mount, the flat arched stones of the Herodian lintel. And further to the right, there stands a clearly visible triple gate with one original Herodian doorjamb still extant.

Climb to this easternmost gate for a great view of the Mount of Olives, the original City of David and the confluence of the Kidron and Ben Hinnom valleys. Beneath you, a maze of paths and catwalks weaves through the ruins of many eras, enticing the curious. And looking down at the original Herodian wall, you'll notice that the lowest course of blocks of this gigantic stone box are fitted right into the bedrock of the hill.

The precision of Herod's engineering becomes especially apparent as we return to the southwest corner of the Temple Mount. From a platform we can see the long, alternating, perpendicular cornerstones (up to 16 meters and weighing between 30 and 50 tons) interlocking like giant knuckles. They share that characteristic Herodian embossment, and the edges are so sharply, finely cut that the stones fit together like the tight pieces of a puzzle, with no concrete between them. We can see additionally the row of small shop stalls abutting the wall, and the walkway running atop their roofs.

Descending to the flagstone street, we stand where shoppers bustled 2,000 years ago. Visitors — especially those from small, outlying villages — must have been overwhelmed, when they looked up, by the immensity, elegance and "modernity" of the huge staircase supported partially by a column and partially by the immense arch that projected from the wall.

A fragment of Robinson's Arch (named for Edward Robinson, the American biblical scholar who identified it in 1838) protrudes from the wall today (in 1967, when the city was unified, the projection was at ground level). The stairs it supported led to a high, decorated, towered gate. A fragment of that ornamented gate sits on the street beside you, and an inscription from atop the tower, where the shofar was blown to announce the Sabbath, is displayed in the Israel Museum.

For more, follow the long wide rut in the street which runs parallel to the wall.

This groove of collapsed flagstones (this area, the Tyropoeon Valley, was partially filled in by Herod, and these flagstones had been pushed into the sediment) leads to a pile of building stones and would continue, were the stones removed.

But they haven't been. The stones sit where they landed after they fell — or rather, were pushed — from the upper courses of this Temple Mount wall 2,000 years ago. Fried loose and cast down by Roman soldiers, stones five tons or more plummeted to the pavement, one after another, and smashed it in a straight orderly line.

To look at those fallen stones is like staring at the scattered shards of a dropped glass bottle. This is closest we'll get to a video detailing the Roman obliteration. This is the moment after, frozen in time, buried in a rubble-filled chasm for 2,000 years and now sitting before us.

Before leaving the ancient street, fix your eyes on the wall, about 15 meters to the left of Robinson's Arch, and look down to below the horizontal channel carved in the blocks. If you are sharp-eyed and lucky you might spot a Hebrew inscription, probably from the fourth century, etched in the stone.

From the book of Isaiah (66:14), it reads: "And when you see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like grass." (The word "flourish" is actually missing.)

I've often wondered who that anonymous Jew was, and what prompted him (or her) to choose and carve that particular text. Perhaps, in this period of Byzantine rule, he quickly gouged the words on Tisha Be'av, the one day each year that Jews were allowed into the city. Or maybe he was responding to Emperor Julian, who aimed to restore pagan rule in Rome and promised that the Jews could rebuild their Temple (Julian was, alas, shortly thereafter killed in battle).

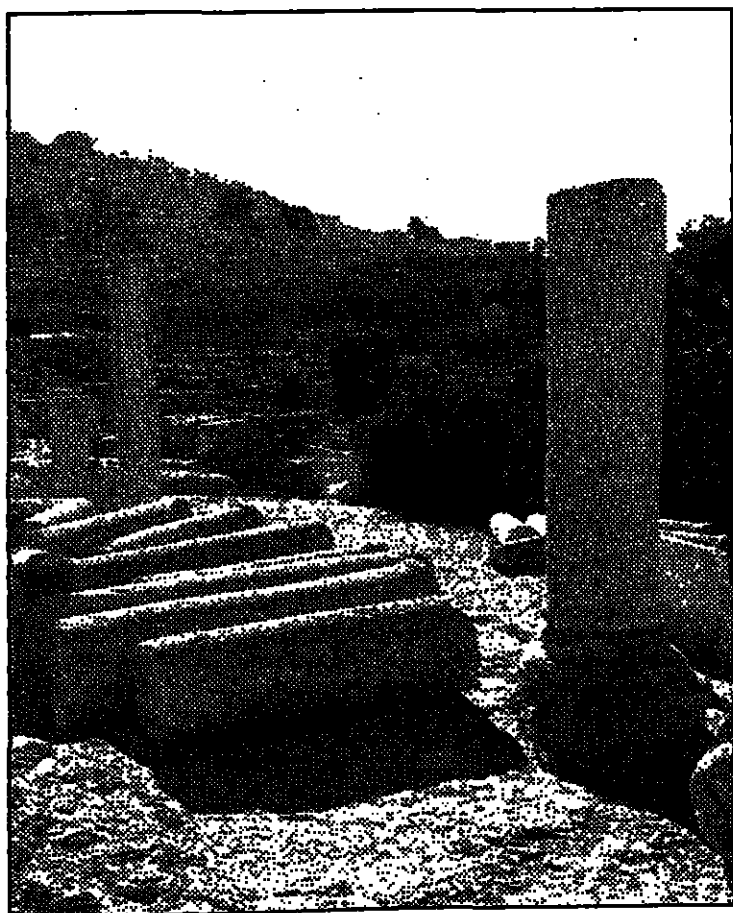
But, juxtaposed against Herod's impressive, embossed stones, the inscription reminds me that the heartfelt prayers of the anonymous masses shaped this city's character through the ages as much as the great edifices built by famous achievers.

The Ophel Archaeological Garden is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, closed on Shabbat. Tel. (02) 625-4403/4.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide. He can be reached at allan@jpost.co.il



Two thousand years ago, visitors to Herodian Jerusalem must have been in awe of the huge, modern staircase supported partially by the immense arch known today as Robinson's Arch. This fragment of the arch is still intact.



Through the ruins of the Ophel Archaeological Garden, there is a great view of the Mount of Olives.



The path running parallel to the Temple Mount's southern wall leads to the seventh-century palace of the Moslem Omayyad caliphate.



The Hulda Gates led into dark tunnels which climbed through the Temple Mount and opened onto the platform of the Temple itself. You can see the three arches of the original gates which are sealed today. (Photos: Sarit Uziel)



A stair case descends to a network of fifth-century Byzantine apartments and earlier cisterns.

Weekender Leisure

Of UFOs, lemmings and lies

The camera doesn't lie, they say. But people do. And the practice of manipulating photographs is almost as old as the camera itself.

In an extensive article, "Photography in the Age of Falsification" (*Atlantic Monthly*, May 1998), nature writer Kenneth Brower discloses a host of photographic fakes, double-takes, set-ups and white lies in the history of nature photography. Computer editing raises the possibilities of addition, subtraction and change to new heights of perfection. So much so, that "photofakery" is now one word.

Photofakery undermines a time-honored trust in the camera. The innocent viewer believes in pictures, and accepts that what he sees is what the photographer saw. "It ain't necessarily so," as the old song goes. Virtually all dark-room workers learn to "dodge" (lighten dark areas), "burn in" (darken light areas), "retouch"

(alter the original image) and "crop" (remove annoyances along the margins of the frame) when printing. Any one of these techniques can also radically alter a picture.

Brower writes that Ansel Adams "arranged in the darkroom for some clouds to evaporate" from his famous "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico, 1941" picture. In another adjustment to reality, the great Paul Strand "drew in manholes or etched out people to balance his compositions."

On Camera

By David Brauner

The truth becomes more shaky when shots are set up. In one of Walt Disney's celebrated nature-film sequences — the footage of the lemmings' suicide — the little animals were bulldozed off the cliffs. "Lemmings do not commit suicide, either individually or en masse from cliffs," comments Brower. "Yet thanks to Disney, several generations of Americans believe that lemmings do."

Modern "digital doctoring" is photographically seamless and



'UFO' taken near Albuquerque, New Mexico, in June 1963; pronounced a hoax, nevertheless, this picture with six others sold for \$2 a set.

undetectable. Anyone with the equipment, the desire and a little know-how can falsify any picture.

In 1982, *National Geographic* ran a computer-altered cover photo of the Pyramids at Giza. The original was a horizontal shot; the compressed cover became a vertical. The storm of controversy that was whipped up at the time has never quite died down.

Brower points out that by digitally multiplying herds of elephants from 15 to 54 in a single frame or by placing a polar bear from a zoo at the South Pole where no polar bears have ever lived, the photog-

rapher is deceiving the public on several counts. He is distorting the facts of nature and conservation, undermining his colleagues who choose not to cheat, and eroding the good name of photography in the eyes of the beholder.

The supernatural has found photofakery a good bedfellow. In 1861, William Mumler of Boston, Massachusetts, the first professional "spirit photographer," was accused of fraud and jailed for his crimes. Since then, ghost and monster (vampires, Loch Ness monster, etc.) photography has often been exploited for hoaxes and photographic trickery.

UFO photographs have been created by tricksters who have been known to throw saucers into the air or sandwich negatives combining a "UFO" and a background under the enlarger to fool the public.

Viewers can witness the controversy over supernatural photographs on the Internet, where Ed Walter's *Gulf Breeze* book of UFO photographs is discussed. William G. Hyzer and Dr. Bruce Maccabee have subjected the pictures to rigorous analysis and declared that "there appears to be a high probability that all of Walter's photos are fakes."

Insidious as it may be in nature photography, photofakery becomes a truly pernicious weapon in politics and war. Senator Joe McCarthy, America's anti-Communist crusader of the 1950s, had one of his targets juxtaposed with a Communist in the same photo. It was guilt by association. During the First World War, British press photographers were heavily censored. Pictures of smiling faces at the front helped keep up morale at home and counterbalance the hardships of conscription.

Bridge A one-imp win

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

Board 64
West dealer
East-West vulnerable

North (Levin)
♠ Q 4 2
♥ K 8 6
♦ K 8 6 2
♣ 7 5 4

West (Cezary) East (Polish-Z)
♠ A K 3 ♠ 7 6 5
♥ J 10 5 ♥ A J 9 4 3
♦ Q J 10 9 3 ♦ A 7 5 4
♣ K 9 6 ♣ 10

South (Weinstein)
♠ J 10 9 8
♥ Q 7 2
♦ —
♣ A Q J 8 3 2

West North East South
1♦ pass 1♥ 2♣
2♦ 3♣ 4♦ 5♣
double

Opening lead: ♥10

The American Summer Nationals in Chicago two weeks ago was an eerie affair. As reported last week in this column, the Life Master Pairs event was decided by less than one matchpoint. In the Spingold Teams, the premier knock-out event of the year in America, one imp (the smallest possible margin, equivalent to one overtrick) was the margin of victory in two of the last three matches. In one of the semifinal matches, the team of Grant Baze-Michael Whitman, of San Francisco, and four professionals from Poland (Adam Zmudzinski, Cezary Balicki, Marcin Lesniewski, and Marek Szymanski) defeated Richie Schwartz, Mark Lair, Ron Smith, Steve Weinstein and Bobby Levin by a single imp. In the final, the Baze team lost to the Nickell team (Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Bob Hamman, and Paul Soloway) by one imp. (The Nickell team had defeated John Onstott, Chris Compton, Ross Grabel and Jon Wittes in the other semifinal.)

Chicago itself is an eerie city, with its 100-year-old tall state buildings overlooking Lake Michigan and its hot summer winds swirling around the large streets. Many top foreign players come to play in the Spingold and it has, in this decade, taken on an international flavor.

The semifinal match that was won by one imp was even more strange, because at the conclusion of the match, the Schwartz team thought it had won, and then a

two-point scoring error was found and the Baze team was declared the winner.

The Baze team, with the four Poles, had won the Spingold in 1997, except for Whitman, who has never played in the late stages of such an important event. He played the first half of the semifinal and, remarkably, his team was up by 81-to-44 with the super strong Polish foursome to play the second half. However, in the third quarter the Schwartz team pulverized the Poles by 84-to-8 making Schwartz a leader by 39 going into the last quarter of the match. The last quarter was shown to a VuGraph audience, who watched on the edge of their seats a comeback by the Poles. After 15 of the last 16 deals, the Baze team fought back to within 13 imps. So they needed to gain at least 750 points on the last board. This board can be seen in today's diagram.

In the Open Room, West played a contract of three diamonds, making an overtrick, for plus 130. It would take a club lead to the ace, followed by the queen of clubs, to defeat five diamonds. South could play another club, when in with a heart, to promote a trump trick for North.

But in the Closed Room (auction shown above), South (for the Schwartz team) bought the contract in five clubs doubled. West led the 10 of hearts.

Declarer played low and won the queen in hand. Declarer led the ace of clubs and queen of clubs, and West pounced with his king to cash his top spades and play another heart through dummy's king. A third and fourth heart led by East set up a trick for the nine of clubs. This meant down four, a score of 800 points. (Declarer could have saved a trick by rising with dummy's king of hearts at trick one.)

The score of 800 minus 130 equaled 670 to the Poles, worth exactly 12 imps. Apparently, the Schwartz team had won by one imp. Everyone in the audience thought so as they left the room. However, Adam Zmudzinski (also known as "Polish-Z") found two scoring errors from the third quarter resulting in 2 more imps for his team. The Baze team had not lost by one, but in fact had won by one!

The poor Schwartz team went from elation to devastation as the Poles were buying triple vodkas at the bar. What a match! And who in the world would expect that the next day would see a similar encounter with a one-imp loss for the Baze team to the Nickell team in the final.

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by email at gran@netvision.net.il

Chess Kasparov whips Israeli team of ex-Soviets

By NIGEL SHORT

Those who thought that Garry Kasparov's lackluster performance in Linares in March was a sign of incipient drought have had much cause to reconsider lately. For a start, it was difficult to fault his 4-0 speed chess victory over Veselin Topalov in Sophia. I know that Veselin had not quite been his usual self recently, but it is hard to imagine too many other players blanketing Toppo, even when he is out of form.

This impressive result presaged an even finer one last week when Garry took on the Israeli team in all things, a simultaneous exhibition. It is difficult to convey the enormity of his task: It is tough enough to face a bunch of strong ex-Soviet grandmasters serially, never mind all at once, so it was quite a surprise when he won the first round 3-1. Not half as surprising, though, as when he won the second round 4-0.

Meanwhile, FIDE has announced another megabucks World Championship for Las Vegas in December. President Kiran of Kalmykia has produced the goods again. I am really starting to like the guy.

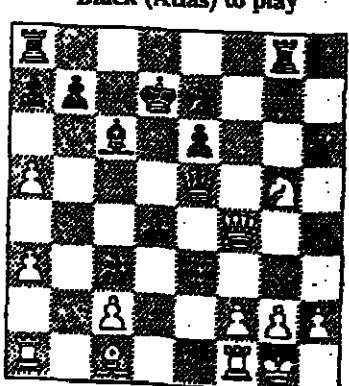
The qualifiers are already under way for those whose rating does not entitle them to a spot. This drastic miniature from the central European zonal tournament shows the tactical theme of the see-saw check at its most deadly.

White: Branko Ragulj
Black: Dimiriy Atlas
Dresden, 1998

1. e4 e6 2. Nc3 d5 3. d4 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Ba5 This, the Armenian Variation, is a very tricky line which poses completely different problems to the more regular 5... Bxc3+ 6. b4 exd4 6... cxb4? 7. Nb5 bxc3+ 8. c3 has long been known to offer White a vicious attack. 7. Qg4 Sharper than 7. Nb5 Bc7 8. f4 which reput-

edly offers the better prospects but is easy to mishandle as many players, myself included, have discovered to their cost. 7... Ne7 8. bxa5 dxc3 9. Qxg7 Rg8 10. Qxh7 Nbc6 11. Nf3 As played by one of the immortals of chess. Nevertheless there is a strong argument for Timman's 11. f4 which bolsters the shaky center. 11... Qe7 12. Bb5 Bd7 13. Bxc6? Premature, allowing the Black bishop on to a very dangerous diagonal way too soon. Instead 13. 0-0-0 14. Bg5 Nxe5! 15. Nxe5 Bxb5 16. Nxf7 Bxf1 17. Nxd8 Rxf5 18. Nxf6 Rxf2+ 19. Kh1! Qe5 20. Rxf1 Qxe6 21. Kxg2 Qg4+ draw, was the famous game Fischer-Tal, Leipzig 1960. 13... Bxc6 14. 0-0 15. Ng5 Qxe5! 16. Qxf7+ Kd7 The White position is critical, indeed it is probably already past that stage. Contrast the activity of the pieces and note how the Black central pawns stick in White's gullet. 17. Qh4? Losing.

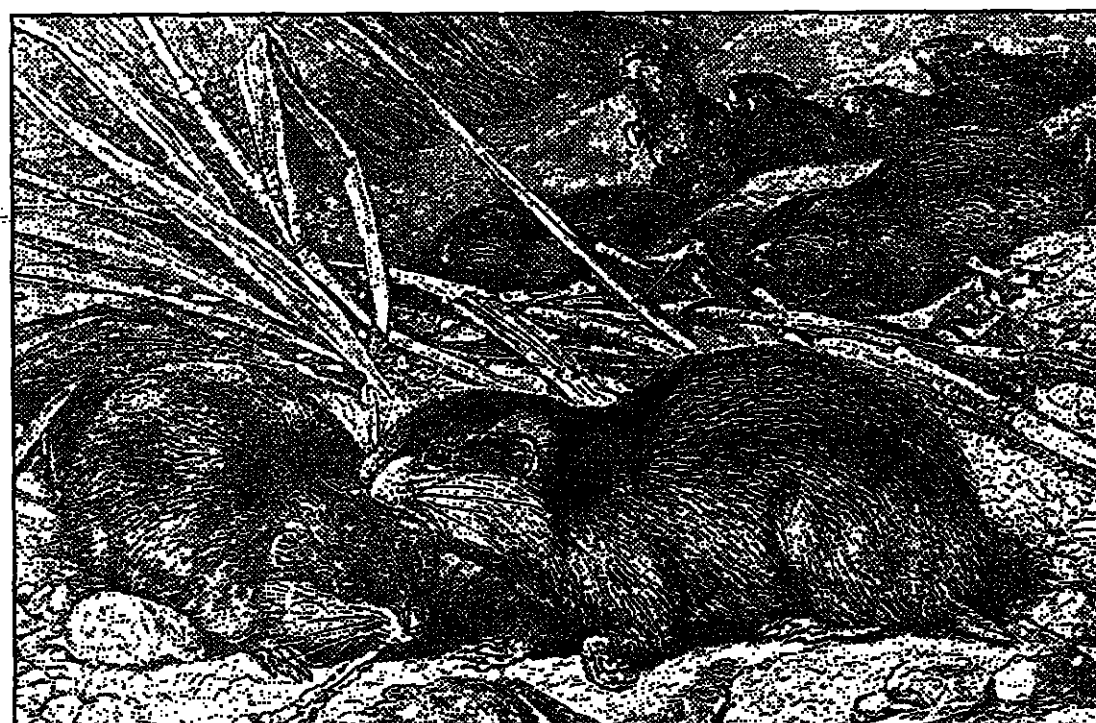
Black (Atlas) to play



White (Ragulj)

17... Rxf5! 18. Qxg5 Rg8! Mate can only be prevented now at stupendous material loss. White rightly considers that it is not worth preventing. 19. Qxf5 Rxf2+ 20. Kh1 Rxf2+ 21. Kg1 Rg2+ 22. Kh1 Rg3+ The bishop has the final say. White resigned.

© Telegraph Group



Lucky lemmings not bulldozed by Disney

What goes around, comes around

LOW-CUT
PARTY DRESS, 1968

PALMACH BLOUSE
1948

MINI-SKIRT
1971

NARROW TIE
1959



HEIL ROSENBERG



Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman

Conventional wisdom says that if you haven't worn it for at least two years, throw it out.

Maybe that works if you're such an obsessive fashion plate that you automatically discard last season's acquisitions as soon as the new collections appear in the stores. It might also be plausible if your storage space is so limited that you have no choice but to get rid of the old in order to accommodate the new.

Most of us, though, find places to hoard those innumerable wearables which, for whatever reason, we aren't wearing at the moment. And an occasional clean-out or sort-out can yield amazing treasures, especially when you've

been shopping with a certain item in mind and fail to find it.

Barring any major weight gains or losses, our tastes don't change all that radically over the years. By going through what you've accumulated, you can actually learn things about yourself which you may not have realized. What's more, you may come across long-forgotten items which still fit and flatter and are, as luck would have it, back in fashion.

IF YOU don't own mobile clothes stands, borrow some or invest a couple of hundred shekels in buying them. Then clear space in your living room or on your balcony and hang all the clothes in your

closets according to category. Take a look at the contents of your closets. Is there a certain preponderance of color? Are the silhouettes alike? Are the garments generally sleeveless? Long sleeved? Short sleeved?

Did you realize that you owned that many shirts and blouses? And what about those unworn skirts that you hung up and promptly forgot you ever bought?

If you double- and triple-hang on one hanger or keep some of your clothes in non-transparent garment bags or simply have a closet so crowded that half the things in it

stay hidden, then you're bound to come across lots of goodies, which in many cases are in mint condition.

Aside from the joy of discovery, you're going to have a great time trying on all these "new" things. Just be prepared for the fact that you'll look awful in some of them and wonderful in others. Some will swim on you, and others will be so tight that you may not even be able to get into them.

After you've been through your collection, make a party. Get a few of your closest friends to come and try on those items which you've decided you definitely can't wear any more, so that they can take home those which fit and suit them.

Suggest that your friends go through the same procedure; then, a week or two later, you can go through the same ritual at someone else's house.

Keep at it until all of you have cleared out your closets. You'll all have a lot of fun, you'll get very creative on the mix-and-match front and you'll all save a tremendous amount of money.

And if, in a few months' time, you and your friends decide to do this again, you may end up retrieving several pieces of your own clothing which at the time you just didn't want to look at.

Chances are, if you liked it once, it will attract you again. In fashion, what goes around, inevitably comes around.

Russia debt over

NA SMIRNOVA

Reuters) — Russia has agreed to the terms of a key debt restructuring plan, ending a long-running market investors' sigh.

Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko said the deal was better than late yesterday's news that Russia was thinking about its access to the world's capital markets.

He came as Fyodorov, who took over the deal, said that Russia had bankrolled the collapse of the government's plan to raise money from its depleted treasury.

He said the deal was part of a package of monetary measures aimed at ending a financial crisis.

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סכנת האלמל

Thursday,
August 20, 1998

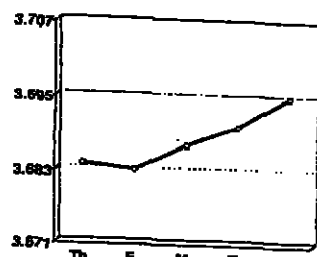
BUSINESS & FINANCE

15

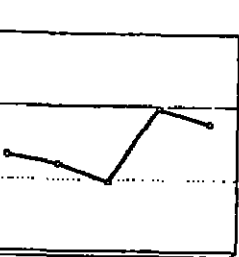
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL

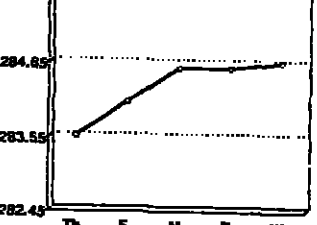


MAOF INDEX



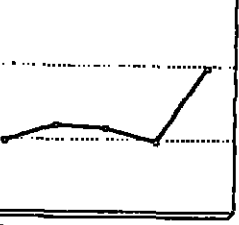
GOLD

\$ per ounce

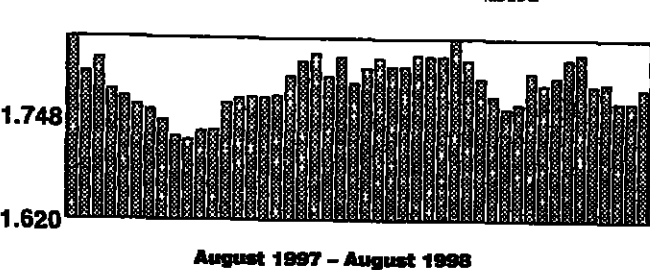


OIL

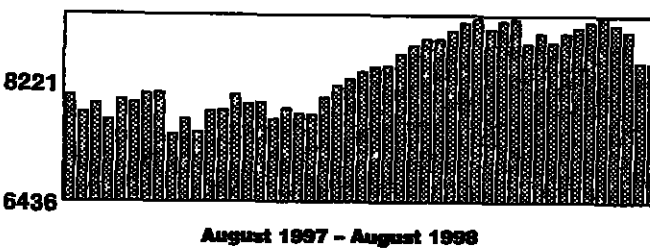
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Russia delays debt overhaul

By ANNA SMIRNOVA

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia delayed word of the terms of a key overhaul of its once-booming short-term debt market yesterday, allowing Western investors a sigh of relief.

They said news that Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fyodorov was to give the terms of the deal on Monday rather than late yesterday meant Russia was thinking carefully about the debt deal, which could affect its access to financing for years ahead.

The delay came as Fyodorov planned more talks with Western investors, who have bankrolled Russia since the collapse of Communism, and amid speculation about a government split about the deal's terms.

"On Monday, if [the scheme] will be totally completed, this I promise," said Fyodorov, also Russia's top tax collection official.

The debt overhaul involves swapping short-term government debt in the form of ruble-denominated GKO t-bills and OFZ bonds into longer-maturity paper, which will be easier for the ex-Soviet giant to finance from its depleted coffers.

The debt deal was part of a package of monetary measures announced on Monday, which included a de facto devaluation of the ruble, aimed at ending a financial crisis.

"This is no empty declaration. If there is no announcement, I will no longer be here [in government]," he told reporters.

Talks with foreign banks were continuing and "no mistake or uncertainty" should be allowed, he said.

Western banks have already howled with protest after a release of preliminary details of the debt swap scheme on Tuesday showed it would discriminate against foreign investors.

Analysts said a discriminatory scheme would effectively cut Russia off from Western financing for years to come.

The government is to discuss the restructuring today and seek approval by the Duma, the lower chamber of parliament, on Tuesday. First Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov said.

A senior parliamentarian said the government was split on the debt deal, with one camp backing a more confiscatory arrangement of a 10 percent payoff now, with the rest swapped into debt maturing over three or four years.

Another group wanted a 40% to 60% payment with new paper of one to 1-1/2 years, the parliamentarian added.

Fyodorov said the government intended to repay maturing short-term debt with new paper at face value. Debt maturing today was included in the plan.

He said on Tuesday that foreign advice was needed for the deal and had invited J.P. Morgan and Deutsche Bank for talks.

"We cannot manage without specialists who have done this [debt restructuring] previously," he said.

He gave no more details as he said it was important not to rush the announcement. He said the "time-out" of five days was needed so there would be no "mistakes or any uncertainties".

ECI Ofakim plant to add 150 workers

By NINA GILBERT

ECI Telecom will hire 150 more workers at its Ofakim plant, CEO David Rubner said yesterday.

Rubner, who called on the government to boost support for R&D in outlying areas, hosted Koor chairman Charles Bronfman, Koor CEO Jonathan Kolber, and Koor president Danny Biran at the factory in Ofakim.

Earlier this year, Koor became the largest shareholder in ECI, under a deal in which it bought shares from the Claridge and Clal holding companies. Koor's new strategy is to expand its holdings in high-tech and divest from low-tech.

Calling on other industrialists to follow Koor's example and head south, Rubner said ECI's factory provides jobs not only in Ofakim,

but in other outlying areas also suffering from high unemployment.

ECI, the Petah Tikva-based maker of digital telecommunications and data transmission systems, said it has set a goal of expanding its Ofakim plant out of a commitment to the city residents.

The Ofakim plant has 335 workers, 140 of them new immigrants. The factory was opened in 1996, following a personal appeal by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin to help create jobs in the town, which was suffering from steady closure of low-tech factories.

Ofakim, has one of the country's highest unemployment rates. However, due to government efforts to create jobs there, the unemployment rate has dropped over the past year from 16 percent to less than 10%.

Foreign investment plunges 37%

By DAVID HARRIS
and DAN GERSTENFELD

Foreign investment plummeted 36.6 percent in the first half to \$1.04 billion from the \$1.64b. registered a year ago, according to data published yesterday by the Bank of Israel.

The fall is even more significant when the comparison is made to the second half of last year, when overall foreign investment reached a record \$2.11b. The decline since then stands at 50.7%.

More significantly, there has been an even sharper decline in real investment, down 60.4% to

\$285 million on the January-June figure last year and 72.2% on the last six months of 1997. Real investment is directly spent on the purchase of assets.

Meanwhile, financial investments (purchases of Israeli equities on either the Tel Aviv or foreign stock exchanges) showed an 18% fall to \$753m. from \$918m. during the equivalent period last year and 30.2% from the \$1.07b. in last year's second half.

Some 40% of last year's overall \$3.7b. foreign investment was the result of two major deals:

• In September 1997, a consortium led by shipping tycoon Ted

Arison won the tender to purchase the controlling share in Bank Hapoalim. The deal brought NIS 11.2b. into the state's coffers. Not all of this amount was considered foreign investment, as the Israeli Dankner family was also a key member of the purchasing group.

• Italy's largest insurer, Assicurazioni Generali, completed the purchase of Migdal Insurance from Bank Leumi for some \$330m.

However, the central bank pointed out overseas investment on the TASE rose 22.3% to \$575m. compared to the corresponding period

last year, and 150% over the second half.

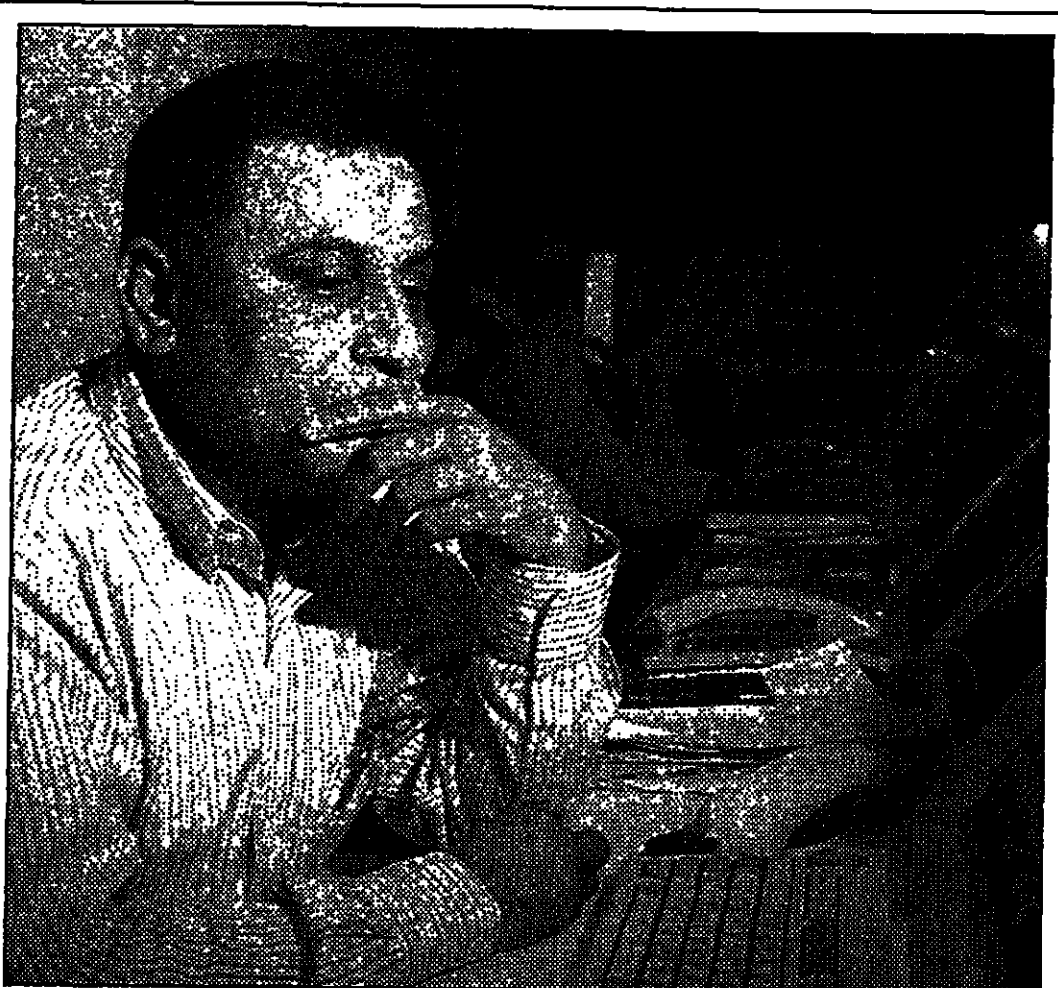
It added the majority of these investments were completed during the second quarter. This increase came at a time when the world's investors were turning their backs on other emerging markets due to the Asian crisis.

The bank noted that, as opposed to previous years, in the first half, overseas investors preferred to finance transactions by taking shekel-linked loans. During the first six months, shekel-denominated credit totaled \$421m. compared to \$167m. in all of 1997.

Economists said factors other than these sales have also influenced the recent course of foreign investment.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu urged caution in using the figures, saying there is still a long way to go this year. The government expects to complete the sale of some 30%-53% of Israel Discount Bank later this year, but MK Avraham Shohat (Labor) maintains receipts from privatization will only amount some NIS 4b., about half the figure realized last year.

The Bank of Israel declined to comment on the figures.



Rupee loses leverage

A foreign exchange dealer in Bombay ponders over the state of the weakening rupee yesterday. The rupee fell below 43.50 against the US dollar, thus completing a 2 percent decline since last week. (AP)

Mobil, Sonol mull deal

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Sonol Israel, the country's third largest oil company, yesterday announced that it is negotiating a cooperation agreement with Mobil Oil Corp.

In a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Granit Hacamel, Sonol's parent company, announced that Mobil is looking into expanding its business and is conducting negotiations with Sonol.

A spokeswoman for the company declined to provide further details. It can be assumed, however, that the owners of Sonol would try to interest Mobil in representing it in Israel.

In July, the Borowitz-Glencore group completed the purchase of 59.5 percent of Granit Hacamel from Mashav Initiating and Development for \$210.5 million. The new owners stated at that time that they were interested in bringing in a strategic investor into the company.

It is questionable, however, if Mobil would actually decide to invest directly in Israel, considering its vast interests in the Arab world. The company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mobil Corporation, has two projects in Qatar, a 4.75% interest in an onshore oil concession in Abu Dhabi, and sells its products in

most of the Middle East.

Based in Fairfax, Virginia, Mobil is the second-largest US-based oil company. It conducts an integrated petroleum business in the US and has exploration and production operations in the US, Indonesia and Canada.

The Borowitz group, which is controlled by Tami Mozes and her husband Dedi Borowitz, has already succeeded in bringing into the company Swiss commodity trader Glencore International, which holds some 30% of Granit through its Dutch subsidiary Ruservo.

Glencore, which trades in petroleum products, metals, minerals, and agricultural products, is one of the world's biggest metals traders. Its involvement in Sonol marks the first time a large international player has entered the local petroleum market.

A deal in which Mobil joins control of Sonol would mark a significant change in the attitude of foreign petroleum companies toward Israel. In the past, as a result of the Arab boycott, no foreign oil company has gone behind the negotiating stage with regard to entering the local economy.

It has been reported that Texas-based Caltex Petroleum is interested in investing in Israel through Dor Energy, but no deal has been announced.

China offers to build Tel Aviv subway

By DAVID HARRIS

A delegation from Shanghai has told the government it is prepared to construct a Tel Aviv subway system, its coordinator, Linda Tse, told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.

The group, headed by Shanghai Municipal Government Planning Commission vice chairman Yang Xiong, includes nine top executives from the city's Urban Rail Transit Construction Co. and the deputy director for business development at the Shanghai Alliance Investment Company.

"We are willing to do this on a BOT basis," said Tse, who added she believes the

team will also succeed in finding the financing for the project.

The BOT (build, operate, and transfer) approach to infrastructure development enables direct private-sector investment in large-scale projects such as roads, bridges, and power plants. A private company or consortium agrees to invest in a public infrastructure project and then secures financing to construct the project. The private developer then owns, maintains, and manages the facility for a concessionary period and recoups its investment through charges or tolls.

Often viewed as one of the most efficient and capable cities in terms of infrastructure

development, Shanghai is presently expanding its own subway system.

"The fact they also brought with them their investment company shows they mean business," said a National Infrastructure Ministry official.

The Chinese offer a package deal from the planning stage through to completion of the project, usually within three to four years, said the official.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and his senior aides this week presented many of Israel's projects currently in their planning stages to the Shanghai team. Key among the ministry's showcase proposals are

two rail links with Jordan: a line linking the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Akaba with a branch line to Ashdod; and a line from Haifa to Irbid.

The delegation itself is particularly interested in the Tel Aviv subway project, but Tse said the team will review information on a variety of additional projects in detail on its return to China.

The delegation's week-long visit follows Sharon's trip last month to China and Mongolia, during which he recommended Chinese companies consider investing here.

The Tel Aviv project still has to receive final planning permission before an international tender is published.

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MUTUAL FUNDS
LEUMIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH Department of Property and Services, Jerusalem

- The Ministry of Health hereby invites bids for the following tender:
Tender No. 111/98 - Supply of Diverse Automated Data Processing Services - Computer Division, Ministry of Health
- Period of Contract:
Three years with an option to extend for an additional period according to the instructions of the Accountant General in the Ministry of Finance.
- a) The tender documents and further information may be obtained from the Information Desk or the Secretariat of the Department of Property and Services, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, The Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-568-1200/1221/1363, during regular working hours.
b) The cost of the tender documents is NIS 200 which must be paid in to the account of the Department of Property and Services of the Ministry of Health at the Postal Bank (Account No. 0-03807-9).
c) For further details, contact Eli Ben-Natan, Tel. 02-670-6802, Fax. 02-672-1062, during regular working hours.
- Bids must be placed in the tender box at the information desk of the offices of the Ministry of Health, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, Jerusalem by October 1, 1998, at 12 noon.
- a) Bidders can submit questions or objections in writing to the Ministry of Health, 4 Rehov Shalom Yehuda, Jerusalem (Fax. 02-672-1062) by September 2, 1998.
b) Bidders who do not do so will be considered as having consented to the terms of the tender.
- Basic Conditions for Submitting Bids:
a) A valid statement of turnover from an accountant for the year 1996, in compliance with the Income Tax Regulations, must be submitted.
b) The sum of NIS 200 (non-refundable) must be paid for the tender documents.
c) Proof that the bidder is an authorized trader for VAT purposes and that he keeps account books must be attached to the bid.
d) An index-linked bank guarantee in the amount of NIS 20,000 valid for 90 days from the last date for submission of bids.
e) All bidders must attend a meeting of suppliers at 10 a.m. on September 10, 1998 at the Ministry of Health, 4 Rehov Shalom Yehuda, Jerusalem, in the conference room on the first floor.
f) Bidders must submit a declaration that they have a permanent staff of more than 30 in their employ.
- a) The Ministry of Health reserves the right to award the bid to more than one bidder for the entire tender or for parts of it.
b) The Ministry may give preference to legally incorporated entities that have at least three years' experience - they or their staff - in providing the services required by this tender.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest bid, any part of it or any bid at all, or to award the entire project to one bidder. The Ministry is entitled to give preference to experienced bidders as explained in the tender documents, and to cancel, expand or reduce the scope of the tender because of budgetary and/or administrative and/or organizational reasons.
- The Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation) - 1995 will apply where appropriate.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH Department of Property and Services, Jerusalem

- The Ministry of Health hereby invites bids for the following tender:
Tender No. 113/98 - Supply of Personnel Services (Cost +) - Computer Division, Ministry of Health
- Period of Contract:
Three years with an option to extend for two more years.
- a) The tender documents and further information may be obtained from the Information Desk or the Secretariat of the Department of Property and Services, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, The Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-568-1200/1221/1363, during regular working hours.
b) The cost of the tender documents is NIS 200 which must be paid in to the account of the Department of Property and Services of the Ministry of Health at the Postal Bank (Account No. 0-03807-9).
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b) The sum of NIS 200 (non-refundable) must be paid for the tender documents.
c) Proof that the bidder is an authorized trader for VAT purposes and that he keeps account books must be attached to the bid.
d) An index-linked bank guarantee in the amount of NIS 20,000 valid until December 31, 1998.
e) A signed declaration by a lawyer that for the past two years the bidder has supplied personnel services to public bodies in the computer field.
f) A valid license in accordance with Para. 2 of the Law of Employing Workers by Personnel Contractors 1996.
- a) The Ministry of Health reserves the right to award the bid to more than one bidder for the entire tender or for parts of it.
b) The Ministry may give preference to legally incorporated entities that have at least three years' experience - they or their staff - in providing the services required by this tender.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest bid, any part of it or any bid at all, or to award the entire project to one bidder. The Ministry is entitled to give preference to experienced bidders as explained in the tender documents, and to cancel, expand or reduce the scope of the tender because of budgetary and/or administrative and/or organizational reasons.
- The Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation) - 1995 will apply where appropriate.

Hoddle faces the fax of football life

THE person with possibly the widest smile in English football this week is Paul Gascoigne.

After turning in a reasonable Premiership performance for Middlesbrough in their game with Leeds, and after enduring a summer with the media camped outside his front door, Gascoigne will have sat back and lapped up the controversy surrounding England coach Glenn Hoddle and his forthcoming book on England's World Cup.

Hoddle, it will be remembered, took the brave step of dropping Gascoigne from the France '98 squad, and at the time, encountered no end of media criticism.

What we didn't know then, and, thanks to *The Sun* newspaper which is serializing extracts from the book, what we know now, is that when Hoddle broke the news of Gascoigne's omission, the player's reaction was to make on his mazy midfield runs through Hoddle's hotel room, leaving inanimate objects stranded like defenders.

With the season hardly having started, this little peccadillo was just what the tabloids needed to boost circulation. Here was an England team coach embroiled in controversy over an off-the-field incident, and to add fuel to the fire, Hoddle was clearly going to benefit from the publicity in terms of the book's selling power.

We waited with baited breath for Hoddle's reaction, but when it came we were to be disappointed. He admitted that all the headlines in

the national press were accurate but bizarrely claimed that the only inaccurate one was *The Sun's* "Drunk Gazza Trashed My Room."

According to Hoddle, this journalistic inaccuracy got through because "at the end of the day, my fax machine was broken" and thus he was not able to vet the copy before publication.

One thing Hoddle will learn very quickly if he is to stay on as England coach - after the weekend there were rumblings from his dismissal - is that it does not matter if it is the end of the day or the middle of the day, you simply do not mess with the press.

Graham Taylor and Terry Venables had their share of difficulties and it seems that Hoddle is heading for a nasty fall if he does not watch his step - but maybe the reported £250,000 payout just for the serialization will help Hoddle to deal with the media.

Hoddle, however, does not help his cause by an annoying interview style in which the term "the situation was" covers all eventualities. "You don't need to be Noam Chomsky to analyze the following gem in response to a question from Ray Stubbs on BBC television on Saturday: "People are going to have opinions and how we deal with them is the tapestry of life."

The spin that the PR gurus have put on Hoddle is that he is as intelligent off the field as he is on it in the glory days at Tottenham. He is presented as a clean-living man who shuns the high profile and whose devout Christianity is a guiding light for his principles.

But this summer Hoddle's reliance on faith healer Eileen Drewery as a professional aid to the squad has cast some doubt on his ability as a coach - not to mention his insistence on helping sink the ubiquitous "football speak" to an even greater degree of ineptitude.

Listening to Hoddle speak, one yearns for the false "poet" accent of Sir Alf Ramsey.

Criticism of Hoddle also came from other sources. Gordon Taylor, Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers' Association said that Hoddle should not have been able to profit from a book, parts of which have fallen outside the remit of his role as coach. "The FA can salvage a crumb of respectability out of this mess only by ordering the withdrawal of this book," Taylor told reporters on Sunday.

And former England captain Gary Lineker added his weight to the argument: "I have never been keen on managers condemning players in public."

Meanwhile, publishers Andre Deutsch have arranged a seven-city promotional trip for Hoddle, and it won't surprise fans to learn that Middlesbrough is not part of the tour.

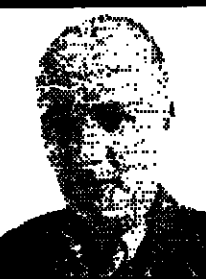
The most popular result of the day (apart from in west London) was Coventry's 2-1 win over Chelsea. *The Express* newspaper on Monday summed up the mood with its headline of Coventry 2 The Rest of the World, (sorry Chelsea) 1.

There were just two Englishmen in the Chelsea team, and one of those, Graeme Le Saux, is from the Channel Islands, but it was good honest, endeavor from Nottingham-born Darren Huckerby and Leicester-born Dion Dublin which saw off Gianluca Vialli's foreign legion of stars. It could well be that the biggest problem for Vialli this season will be how to conduct the team talk - Esperanto might be useful.

After the first round of Premiership games, Wimbledon find themselves on top after the 3-1 win over sorry Spurs. Coming off the Selhurst Park pitch, Dons manager Joe Kinnear pointed to his track suit - a reference to three points already in the bag in what pundits have labeled the annual fight against relegation.

As for Spurs, the players were kept waiting on the team coach for over an hour after the game as manager Christian Glosfranc frantically searched for a video of the game - and from his point of view, it wouldn't have come from Blackbuster.

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

SPORTS

in brief

Caesarea golf

A score of six better than par 67 strokes meant first place for Zev Abraham and super-senior Effe Ben in the better-ball medal competition at Caesarea's golf club.

Tying for second place with 68 were Harold Stutzen and Aviva Dankner together with Jules Curbumek and Uri Ayalon but the better back-nine formula gave second place to Stutzen and Dankner.

In the on-going Eli Kishner Cup matchplay competition, John Deller moved into the third round with a one up win on the 18th hole over Curbumek.

After 11 rounds in the Coca Cola league, Kfar Shmaryahu lead with 53 points followed by Kfar Sava with 36 and Herzliya in third place at 21.

Heather Chait

IAAF confirms Mitchell's urine sample positive

BUDAPEST (AP) - The second part of sprinter Dennis Mitchell's urine sample tested positive for excessive levels of testosterone, the International Amateur Athletic Federation confirmed yesterday.

The original - or A sample - exceeded the allowable limit for the male hormone after an out-of-competition test April 1 at Gainesville, Florida. IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reineri said yesterday that the B sample - taken from the same urine and examined at a lab in Montreal - also was over the limit.

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